

THE TIMES

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MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

TODAY
10P

**FREE MAGAZINE
FOR EVERY READER**
TOKEN, PAGE 40

LIFE

Day 1:
Helen
Dunmore
on women,
food and sex
PAGE 15

BALLOT 97

Election issues
guide starts with
education
PAGE 6

15 PAGES OF SPORT

**ARSENAL
FIRE TITLE
WARNING**
PAGE 25
PLUS: Five
Nations verdict
PAGES 34,35

TODAY
10P

**Top sports
stars are
targeted
by letter
bombers**

BY ADRIAN LEE
AND CRAIG LORDE

BRITISH sports stars Sharon Davies and Frank Bruno are believed to be among the targets of a letter-bomb campaign by the extreme right-wing group Combat 18. Other athletes in mixed-race relationships are also feared to be on a hit-list after the seizure of three packages and the arrest of seven people in Denmark.

Miss Davies, a former Olympic swimmer and now a television presenter, is married to the former Olympic athlete Derek Redmond. The retired boxer Frank Bruno has a white wife, Laura.

Scotland Yard was involved in moves to foil the plot, also aimed at left-wing activists. Officers who infiltrated far-right groups passed information to Interpol.

Danish sources said Boris Becker, the German tennis player whose wife Barbara Feltus-Perlstadt is black, was another target.

Miss Davies, 34, said yesterday that she was aware of the bombing campaign but added: "This is a police matter and I really can't say anything." She and her husband have received hate-mail from Combat 18 in the past. Her father, Terry, said: "I suppose they are easy targets but they don't let it affect them."

The intended recipients have all been alerted by police. Saturday's arrests in Denmark — of five men and two women in their 20s — were made under the country's terrorist laws after a tip-off that explosive devices, made of nitroglycerine and concealed inside video cassettes, were being addressed there, then taken by boat to Sweden for posting to London.

Network of terror, page 4



A model wearing a gold nose-ring two inches in diameter announces the arrival in Paris yesterday of Alexander McQueen with his first *haute couture* collection for the house of Givenchy. The nose-ring was typical of his flamboyant collection, which was inspired by Greek mythology. There were refer-

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

LESSONS IN LEARNING
The truth about
homework
pages 16,17
PLUS Peter Riddell
starts the week
in politics
page 20

TOMORROW

**ASPECTS OF
LOVE**
Marianne Wiggins
on passion in
middle-age

**PLUS Why
homework
need not
happen
at home**

WEDNESDAY

INTERFACE
Win a laptop
computer
PLUS
Times men get
the makeover
treatment

THURSDAY

BEST FOR JOBS
Your pick of the top
appointments
PLUS Dr Thomas
Stuttaford's
medical
briefing

THE TIMES

FRIDAY

MATTHEW PARRIS
The columnist
of the year
every Friday
PLUS David
Sinclair
meets Brett
Anderson of Suede

SATURDAY

EAT OUT FOR A FIVER
Jonathan Meades
introduces
The Times
best-ever
restaurant
offer

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97,
WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG
TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND
RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Brown aims for two-year freeze on spending

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to fellow Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the November Budget.

The totals will stay fixed at £266 billion for 1997-9 and £273 billion for 1998-9. Labour will use that fact to try to blunt the Conservative charge that it would inevitably raise taxes. In an unprecedented move that will remove an early potential source of conflict for a Blair administration, he will say that this year's annual spending review, in which ministers compete to carve the spending cake, is

Under the Brown plan every spending minister will be expected to justify every item in their budgets, making savings in the low priority areas and redirecting them to frontline needs. His decision not to hold a formal spending review this year and instead to accept the overall figure planned by the Government for 1998-9 means that the long-predicted "bloodbath", in which Labour ministers were supposed to fight each other for resources the moment a Labour government was elected, will not apparently take place.

The arguments may, however, be stored up for later in the life of the Government when priorities as between departments rather than within them are changed. If Labour wins, Mr Brown's first Budget is being planned for six to eight weeks after the general election.

He will today promise a firm but fair approach to public sector pay, saying: "Just as we will resist every other unreasonable demand on the public purse, we will resist unreasonable public sector pay demands." There will be no extra money from the Government and pay increases must come from the tough limits on every department.

Mr Brown will say that Labour's guiding principles on spending are that public money should be spent efficiently and provide value and that it should be spent wisely in line with its priorities. Mr Brown is making it clear that the windfall tax on the privatised utilities will form part of his first Budget. His advisers say that there are no legal obstacles to its introduction.

Trade union reaction last night to Mr Brown's plan suggested that the Labour leadership will not face a backlash this side of an election. However, senior figures warned of the danger of struggles if an incoming Labour government takes a tougher line than the Conservatives in restraining public sector pay.

Mr Brown's announcements, to businessmen at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, mark his most striking attempt yet both to play down expectations and to convince the electorate and the City that his tough approach to spending and tax is serious.

Aides believe that his acceptance of the Government's spending figures will convince voters that Labour has no need to raise personal taxes. He will say: "These are the figures on which departments are already planning and should continue to plan." Labour councils across the country will get the same message.

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"I've never known Dave to embrace a Labour policy so quickly"

Arafat returns to Hebron in triumph

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER

YASSER ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of more than 30 years and declared jubilant applause from a crowd of more than 30,000 Palestinians that it was a "liberated city".

Speaking from the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, he appealed to the 450 Jewish settlers in the city which came under Palestinian self-rule on Friday to help to work towards a full and final peace with Israel.

"While I stand here in Hebron, I tell the settlers we do not want a confrontation," he said. Less than two miles away, the militant settlers, living under heavy military guard scorned his gesture, calling him a "master murderer".

Triumphant Arafat, page 9

Village holds its alternative service

Parishioners who are boycotting their village church because their vicar divorced and then married his curate, were celebrating yesterday after their first prayer meeting proved more popular than a service conducted by the Reverend Royton Such. There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, Hampshire. Page 3

Tolkien's 'Book of the Century'

The epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by Waterstones' customers. Names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make the top 100. Page 4

Rifkind challenges Kohl on Europe

Malcolm Rifkind yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate. The Foreign Secretary asked the Chancellor to prove that he was not a federalist. Page 2

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Archbishop takes a sabbatical

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for two months.

Managers and stockbrokers who need a break take sabbaticals, while vicars and bishops who have preached one too many sermons go on retreat. At least, that is the general view.

But after a punishing schedule

over the last few months the Archbishop has taken a leaf out of the modern manager's handbook and is taking a two-month sabbatical.

Dr Carey flew to Washington DC on Saturday for four weeks of rest and recuperation during which time, aides say, he plans to read, reflect, pray and possibly start work on a book.

However, attempts to keep his precise whereabouts secret have not been entirely successful. His chaplain, the Reverend Colin Fletcher, said: "We have not

wanted to publicise where he is but lots of people have already discovered he's going to be there and have invited him to do things like speaking."

Dr Carey will be in Washington for four weeks and will spend the last three weeks of his sabbatical at Lambeth Palace.

The sabbatical year dates from the earliest church history. It was established in Mosaic Jewish tradition by the command in Deuteronomy that one year in seven should be a "sabbath" when

Continued on page 2, col 5

BUSINESS ... 42-46, 48
MIND & MATTER 14
ELECTION GUIDE 6

ARTS ... 18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE 39
COURT & SOCIAL 22

LETTERS ... 21
OBITUARIES ... 23
PETER RIDDELL ... 20

TV & RADIO ... 46, 47
WEATHER ... 24
CROSSWORD ... 24, 48

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Tories to remove education authorities' powers



Booth to represent union at High Court

TORY election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities, with manifesto commitments designed to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards.

Measures to be considered at next week's Chequers summit on the Tory manifesto would strip town halls of their veto over school admissions and send "hit squads" into the worst-performing authorities. Schools would be given control over virtually all of their budgets, leaving authorities to sell their services to survive.

Councils would share responsibility for planning secondary school places with a quango. This would remove an obstacle to John Major's drive for selective schooling.

Mr Blair has placed educa-

tion at the head of his party's priorities, accusing the Tories of failing to tackle under-achievement in schools. But primary school league tables to be published before the election will give ministers ammunition for a fresh assault on Labour's record in local government. As in secondary schools, the worst results will be found in Labour-controlled authorities.

This morning, the National Association of Head Teachers begins a High Court challenge

to the publication of the tables. The union will be represented by the barrister, Chern Booth, QC, Mr Blair's wife, who will argue on their behalf that the tables are unfair because the results take no account of absence or the number of children excused from taking last summer's tests because of special educational needs.

If the action succeeds, the tables will not appear before the election. When they are published, however, certain inner-London boroughs and

northern authorities are likely to offer easy targets for ministers anxious to blame low standards on Labour.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already introduced inspections of local authorities. But the Education Bill, which completed its committee stage last week, contains no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

A re-elected Tory government would create the concept of a "failing" authority to parallel the system for schools.

In cases of failure, the Funding Agency for Schools would take over key functions, such as responsibility for admissions policies and planning new places.

The agency already has a "school improvement unit".

which has used consultants to tackle problems in six grant-maintained schools. Its role could be extended to cover failing authorities. The committee drafting the education section of the Tory manifesto has stopped short of recommending that all schools become grant-maintained, preferring no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

A re-elected Tory government would create the concept of a "failing" authority to parallel the system for schools.

In cases of failure, the Funding Agency for Schools would take over key functions, such as responsibility for admissions policies and planning new places.

However, some Conservatives, still hope a more radical

programme will emerge from the Chequers meeting. Right-wingers have been lobbying for vouchers to be introduced for mainstream schooling, and the supporters of opting-out want local authorities to lose their responsibility for secondary schools.

Sir Robert Balchin, the chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Self-government is impossible while local education authorities continue."

Sir Robert, who is also a member of the Funding Agency, predicted that authorities would circumvent the regulations by insisting that schools bought packages of services.

Labour said the plans were at odds with Mrs Shephard's instructions to authorities to be more active in raising

school standards. She told education officers last Friday that she was considering giving them powers to issue formal warnings to schools in danger of failure. If there was no improvement, authorities would take back control of the school from its governors.

A Labour spokesman said the party had made the original proposal for inspections of education authorities, but did not consider formal sanctions necessary because annual council elections left power with the electorate. Labour had proposed a limit of £50 per pupil for administrative costs, but ministers had taken no action in the Education Bill.

Ballot 97, page 21
Blanket letter, page 21

Rifkind tells Kohl to spell out EU limits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate.

The Foreign Secretary told the Chancellor and other leaders to prove their claim that they were not federalists. "I think the time has come really to ask them to indicate what are the limits of the integration that they seek," he said. "What would be the European Union that they would like to see in 10 or 20 years' time. In what way would that fall short of federalism?"

His comments were the first public demand from a Cabinet minister for pro-European leaders to set out their precise ambitions for the future of the Union. Pressing the need for a flexible European Union in which some countries could integrate more closely while others opted out, Mr Rifkind insisted that all member states must approve any move allowing the creation of an inner core. Without unanimity, it could not be right for core countries to have access to the EU budget, the European Court and the resources of the

European Commission to support those initiatives.

Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he had privately urged Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, to spell out his country's long-term objectives, but it had never really been debated publicly.

His demands came on the eve of a Brussels meeting in which Britain expects support for its demand that there should be a flexible system backed by unanimous voting. British ministers claim to have the support of up to five countries for their plan. Paris and Bonn want a "flexibility chapter" written into the Treaty of Amsterdam in June that prevents a single country vetoing a flexible system.

Mr Rifkind said: "The issue of flexibility is probably the most important issue that's being discussed at the inter-governmental conference."

John Major believes that the flexibility issue will be the key to breaking the deadlock on future development of the Union. Among the main policy areas for greater flexibility are defence, immigration and asylum issues.

Police and soldiers search a field near Warminster yesterday in the hunt for Zoe Evans, missing for nine days.

Police dig in garden at Zoe's home

POLICE began digging in the front garden of Zoe Evans's home yesterday as prayers were said in local churches for the missing nine-year-old (Adrian Lee writes). Witnesses said that police officers used a spade to dig a strip 8ft long and 2ft wide in the garden of her home in Warminster, Wiltshire.

A police spokeswoman said the action

was part of a systematic search of the house and surrounding area. She added that items had been found, but could not say whether they were connected with the

child's disappearance until they had been identified.

Police asked for more time to question the missing girl's parents about her suspected murder. On Saturday night, magistrates agreed a warrant extending the time that her mother, Paula Evans, 28, and stepfather Miles Evans, 23, could be detained for interview. This morning police must apply for a new warrant if the couple have not been charged or released.

Officers are investigating hundreds of possible sightings of Zoe, last seen nine

days ago. Over the weekend they questioned 6,000 people in Warminster. Shoppers were shown a video of a child walking behind a man and a woman through the town's Three Horseshoes mall — thought to be the last sighting of her. A 15ft billboard bearing her picture was towed through the streets.

Inspector Geoff Hicks admitted hopes of finding the girl alive were fading. "Given the length of time since her disappearance, I am afraid we are having to prepare ourselves for the worst."

Howard defends bugging legislation

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL HOWARD insists that his controversial Police Bill strikes the right balance between protecting civil liberties and fighting serious crime. The Bill, which faces a close vote in the House of Lords tonight, would give police the right to break into private property and plant bugging devices without authorisation.

In *The Times*, the Home Secretary says that the legislation would ensure that the police were accountable. All buggings would be reviewed by a "commissioner", probably a High Court judge, who would investigate complaints.

Senior lawyers and judges have attacked the Bill as a threat to civil liberties and in a letter to *The Times* today, eight senior members of the medical profession voice concern over possible infringement of the confidential relationship between doctor and patient if surgeries were bugged. Opposition divisions mean Mr Howard has a good chance of averting defeat.

Michael Howard, page 20
Letters, page 21

Ashdown moves to stamp out dissent

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PADDY ASHDOWN moved to head off growing dissent within his party yesterday as a Liberal Democrat MP claimed that his leader's ambitions of a Cabinet post were driving his crusade for closer ties with Labour, with whom he is having talks on a wide range of constitutional reforms.

David Alton, in a newspaper article, warned him against putting his own hopes against putting his own hopes of ministerial office in a Blair-led government ahead of the interests of the country and his own party. With his fellow MP Chris Davies, he said Mr Ashdown would not win party support for any changes to the voting system that fell short of full proportional representation.

Mr Ashdown, interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, strongly rejected the suggestion that his approach was about personal ambition and underlined that he would not agree to anything less than proportional representation.

He said that Mr Alton's article is a travesty of all the things that I stand for, of all the things I'm trying to achieve.

Tory MPs attack activists

Tory MPs criticised some of the party's most senior officials and activists for secretly considering changes to the way a leader is elected. According to BBC's *On the Record* programme, 25 chairmen and senior agents met last weekend and discussed changes which would reduce the role of MPs and give 20 per cent of the vote to the executive committee of the National Union, the party's voluntary wing. Peter Temple-Morris said the union was behaving as if the general election were already lost.

Gun dealers seek help

Two hundred firearms dealers will meet with receivers in London today for discussions on compensation over the proposed ban on handguns. Most traders are resigned to the legislation which will outlaw all handguns above .22 calibre and force smaller weapons to be kept at secure gun clubs. Many businesses have already folded and the remainder are intent on persuading the Government to compensate retailers for loss of premises, stock and trade. The meeting will be at Westminster Central Hall.

Thunderflash alert

Army bomb disposal experts were called to the house of royal protection officer Michael Coulton by police investigating the murder of his wife Patricia. Officers searching the house in Woking, Surrey, were believed to have found a thunderflash, an explosive device used in military training. The incident on Saturday afternoon came just hours after Mr Coulton, 52, was remanded in custody by Reading magistrates after being charged with a number of firearms offences.

Army barracks for sale

Chelsea Barracks, home of the Coldstream Guards, is for sale and could be the first of many army bases to be privatised or redeveloped to raise money. The 37-acre Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow and the Royal Military Academy site at Woolwich are also for sale. The Ministry of Defence has decided that all three should be offered to the commercial sector under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. The ministry said security and operational needs would be paramount.

Archbishop in US for sabbatical

Continued from page 1
land should remain fallow and all slaves and debtors freed.

Since being elevated from Bath and Wells in 1991, Dr Carey has visited the Falklands, Turkey, Germany, Papua New Guinea, America, Malta, Kenya, Tanzania and about 30 other countries.

He has been to Rome twice to meet the Pope, has written nearly 200 articles and formally visited 20 of the 43 dioceses in the Church of England. That does not include the one-off speeches and sermons he gives in brief visits to other dioceses, which have been too numerous to count.

On top of all this, he has been scrupulous in fulfilling

his *ex officio* engagements as Archbishop, in attending the House of Bishops meetings, diocesan synods and general synods. He has hosted dinners, receptions and lunches and delivered hundreds of sermons. He has also maintained an active involvement with 300 charities and institutions he is involved with.

Dr Carey is not the first Archbishop to take a sabbatical. His predecessor, Lord Runcie, also took one of similar length about five years into his job. Dozens of clerics take sabbaticals, with the agreement of their diocesan bishop.

He is usually up and working on speeches by 6.30am, says mains daily at 7.30am and normally works straight through the evenings, usually until after 10pm, reading the latest publications on theology, politics and other issues. He has few weekends off.

"He might take the occasional afternoon to go to a football match but he has a punishing schedule. It seems to go with the territory," a spokesman said.

According to some insiders, sabbaticals are becoming increasingly common as the days when a cleric's life consisted of gentle reading in their study and a sermon once a week recede.

The Archbishop was backed by Charles Handy, an expert on the world of work, who took a sabbatical to write his first book, *Understanding Orga-*

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Snub to divorced vicar who married his curate

Rebel parishioners hold service in village hall

By EMMA WILKINS

A GROUP of parishioners who are boycotting their village church were celebrating yesterday after their first rival prayer meeting proved overwhelmingly more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar.

There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, near Winchester, where 120 parishioners worshipped together for the first time since the Rev Royson Such offended the congregation by divorcing his wife and marrying his curate.

Just a few hundred yards away at the parish church of St Peter, 24 people gathered for matins with Mr Such. He was accompanied to matins in the Norman parish church by his wife, the Rev Tana Riviere. Her curate's licence was removed 10 months ago.

Mr Such, 49, a former solicitor, has rejected calls for his resignation from parishioners and the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton. A move to force him from his post under the incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure failed, last month when the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, decided not to hold an inquiry.

The rival service, which could become a regular monthly event, was led by Humphrey Carr, a solicitor who lives in the village. "I



Mr Such and his wife heading for church yesterday

must stress that it is not our purpose to be divisive or to provoke. We are not trying to set up a parallel church in this benefice". Mr Carr told the prayer meeting. "If the need is perceived, and there is sufficient interest and support, then we may be able to arrange more services. I am very pleased to see so many friends and supporters here."

Barbara Longlands, former organist and chourmestress at St Peter's, played the piano during the prayer service. "I don't go to the church any more. We used to have a good congregation before the Rev Such arrived but people would rather have their own service than go to St Peter's now. I have never known such trouble in all the 23 years I have lived here," she said.

Mr Such, 49, a former solicitor, has rejected calls for his resignation from parishioners and the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton. A move to force him from his post under the incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure failed, last month when the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, decided not to hold an inquiry.

The rival service, which could become a regular monthly event, was led by Humphrey Carr, a solicitor who lives in the village. "I

the bishop is a clever man so perhaps he will find a way to sort this out. It's up to him now," he added. "It was a tremendous service and so lovely to see all the familiar faces from the old congregation. We felt we all wanted to worship together, but not with the Rev Such because we were getting the wrong kind of leadership. I felt I couldn't, in all honour, stay on as churchwarden under those circumstances," he added.

Mr Goddard said problems with Mr Such began before he divorced his first wife Elizabeth, the mother of his five children, to marry his curate in 1995. "It's not just about his remarriage. He was always rather autocratic. He made all sorts of changes without any consultation," Mr Goddard said.

The bishop has described tensions between the Rev Such and his parishioners in Ropley. Bishops Sutton, and West Tisted as "a wretched pastoral situation" but rejected referring the matter to a tribunal.

While delighted with the turnout at the rival service, Mr

Goddard said the whole affair left him feeling deeply sad. "I always walk past the church and it makes me very sad to think that I will not go back in there while the Rev Such is in charge," he said. "The bishop has urged us to make some kind of rapprochement but I don't think that's going to be possible. We are resolve, but

Among those joining together in prayer and song at the village hall was John Goddard, 70, a retired army officer and former church warden.

Mr Goddard, who has lived in Ropley for 40 years, resigned last month from his post at St Peter's following the Bishop of Winchester's decision not to refer parishioners' complaints to a tribunal.

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Goddard said the whole affair left him feeling deeply sad. "I

always walk past the church and it makes me very sad to think that I will not go back in there while the Rev Such is in charge," he said. "The bishop has urged us to make some kind of rapprochement but I

don't think that's going to be possible. We are resolve, but



Alexander McQueen is applauded by models after his Paris show

Eastender triumphs with Paris collection

By HELEN BROWN

THE first *haute couture* show by Alexander McQueen for the established house of Givenchy proved beyond doubt last night that British fashion designers are now leading the world.

The "East End lad" was always an unlikely choice for such a prestigious house but the gamble has paid off. Taking over from fellow British designer Galliano, who has moved to Dior, McQueen pushed the boundaries of fashion to its limits with a collection based on Greek mythology.

His theatrical, antiquity-inspired collection resembled a costume ball and was supported by a bizarre spectacle of large hairdos and gold-tinted breasts spilling from rib-crushing corsets.

Ornate imagery including minotaur nose rings and Pegasus feathered wings crafted into corsets shocked the more conservative French, but enthralled the more artistic-minded Americans and British.

The more artistic sensibilities of British designers are sometimes hard to translate into the staid world of *haute couture*, where dresses can cost up to £40,000. The customer of old for Givenchy has long left the house since the advent of John Galliano last year but a new, more adventurous customer is anticipated on the horizon.

These *haute couture* collections are more an exercise in publicity to promote the lucrative perfume side of the fashion business, but this is a gauge that McQueen has done his job. This should signify the sweet smell of success for McQueen. It is far from Savile Row, where he nurtured his ability as a brilliant tailor, to Paris where his show returned Givenchy to the cutting edge of fashion.

Police fear pensioner was killed for £200

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE have begun a murder inquiry into a pensioner's death two weeks after concluding that she died from natural causes.

The investigation was re-opened after the family of Daphne Cole, 83, expressed concern over pension money being missing. She had picked up £200 from a post office near her home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, two days before her body was found.

Detectives now believe that Mrs Cole was strangled. A pathologist's report had said she died from a heart attack and the effects of bronchial pneumonia. A second post-mortem examination, by a Home Office pathologist, found injuries that were inconsistent with death by natural causes. These findings were supported by Dr Iain West of Guy's Hospital, central London, a leading pathologist.

Mrs Cole was last seen alive on Saturday January 4, when one of her grandsons took her shopping. The next day, neighbours contacted Mrs Cole's family when they saw that curtains were open and the lights still on.

Her body was found by her daughter, Verna Hamilton, and her husband. Police said the kitchen door was unlocked and the television on. A tray was by the body.

Detective Superintendent Geoff Mumus, of Suffolk Police, said: "This is an appalling crime. We can only assume that Mrs Cole was murdered in her own home for a few hundred pounds."

West Suffolk Hospitals' NHS Trust, who employed the pathologist who carried out the original post-mortem examination, said it would be reviewing the matter.



The scrapped 19p stamp, top, and the 41p version

Football fantasy was stamped out

IT WAS to have been the pinnacle of Roy of the Rovers' glittering career. The Manchester Rovers striker would have been the star of a set of stamps to commemorate England winning the Euro '96 Championship.

But Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semifinal against Germany meant not only England's exit, but also the scrapping of the stamps.

Because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family can appear on a stamp, the honour befalls Roy of Manchester Rovers, a comic-strip hero for more than 30 years, to capture the occasion.

The first stamp was to show Roy being called up for the tournament. Another would have depicted him scoring Alan Shearer's goal against Switzerland. However, he may yet appear if England win the World Cup next year.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Lost status, page 46
£500,000 lost, page 48

Football, page 25, 28-31

Horlick takes a break to unwind

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE City fund manager Nicola Horlick took her first break yesterday since being suspended by Morgan Grenfell on Tuesday, and spent the day with her three youngest children.

Mrs Horlick, a mother of five, said she had been unable to eat or sleep since starting her whirlwind campaign against the German-owned bank. "I have been a bit overwrought but it's a great way to lose weight."

As she bundled Serena, 6, Rupert, 3, and Antonia, seven months, into the car, she said: "Today I am trying to have a bit of rest, but tomorrow I'll be spending all day at the offices of my lawyer, Herbert Smith." Asked if she regretted the media circus, she said: "No, because I'm trying to get justice done. I believe I should be reinstated or be given proper compensation, but I would like my job back."

She denied that she had ambitions to become a Labour MP, insisting that reports in the *Express on Sunday* were "rather exaggerated". "I don't belong to any political party and I have expressed no political views," she said. "A lot of my clients are local authority clients, so it would be wrong for me to do so."

Mrs Horlick has been accused of trying to poach staff from Morgan Grenfell for a rival company. Yesterday was the first time she had been seen in public without her trademark red lipstick, string of pearls and black business suit. "The idea that I have loads of labels is ludicrous," Mrs Horlick said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Lost status, page 46
£500,000 lost, page 48

Backroom boy's low fidelity debut goes straight to No 1

By CAITLIN MORAN

A RECLUSE computer musician last night became the fourth person to have a debut single enter the charts at No 1, with a record he made in a makeshift studio in his bedroom.

Indian-born Jyoti Mishra was hardly greeting his phenomenal success in traditional pop-star style. Mishra, who recorded his runaway hit *Your Woman - Abort, Retry, Fall* under the name White Town, using a £30 microphone, remained shut away indoors after receiving the news at his mock-Tudor semi-detached house on an estate in Derby and refused to comment.

The success follows that of the Beatles' Anthology series which featured scratchy, ram-

shackle home demos of some of their most popular songs and encouraged public taste to become more attuned to low production values. White Town's hit could hardly be more amateur - Mishra, 28, worked alone with an eight track machine in his bedroom at his parents' home.

He did not originally plan to release the track, but was badgered by his girlfriend into having a handful of copies pressed. With the last of his money, he sent copies to five radio presenters.

They ignored it, but Radio 1's Mark Radcliffe started playing it on his show every night. Mishra had a deal with Chrysalis Records. White Town is

the most successful in a growing list of artists who prefer to keep things cheap.

Since the explosion of dance music in the late Eighties, stars on *Top of the Pops* are less likely to be a hard-touring, hard-drinking gang who have spent thousands of pounds on production; and more likely to be a couple of mates with some fairly cheap computers, who released the record on a small, self-financed budget.

Mishra, who taught himself to play guitar listening to Buddy Holly records, and was rejected by nearly every record company in Britain before getting his music into the charts in his own way, is merely the first of the No 1 bedroom superstars.

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Letter bombs turn British neo-Nazis into terrorists

THE interception of letter bombs destined for targets in Britain marks a dramatic escalation in the tactics used by the extreme right-wing organisation, Combat 18.

The British-based neo-Nazi group is a shadowy alliance of a few hundred members who have previously confined their activities mainly to intimidation, rather than terrorism. Authorities in Denmark, where seven people in their early 20s have been charged with planning an international letter bombing campaign aimed at targets in London, now fear more concerted international hostilities. There is growing evidence that the

British group, which is known to include violent figures, has extended its links with neo-Nazis in Denmark, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Austria and eastern Europe.

Although Denmark has only a very small neo-Nazi movement, the country's liberal freedom of speech laws have made it a haven for foreign extremists. German neo-Nazis forced to close down printing houses in their own country have moved a few miles across the frontier into Denmark, operating from small towns and villages.

Formed in 1992, Combat 18 has been linked with a number of arson attacks and

assaults on opponents. At least 12 of their victims have need hospital treatment, including two women. In the past two years, members have attempted to take over a highly profitable Nazi music industry, which has led to internecine violence.

The number 18 in the organisation's title stands for the first and eighth letters of the

alphabet, the initials of Adolf Hitler. The letter bomb technique is borrowed directly from neo-Nazi groups in Austria, where gangs sometimes operating from across the border in Germany, have been targeting foreigners, gypsies or liberal politicians. Exact instructions on how to put together a letter bomb, including electronic circuits, the

right dosage of nitroglycerine and the correct size of detonator, have been in circulation for some time among Europe's neo-Nazi groups.

In Britain, supporters launched a newspaper called Target. It has been used to identify anti-racist campaigners, left-wing opponents and journalists who have attacked them. Addresses have been published and a number of homes have received hate mail or had bricks thrown at windows. Combat 18 has also used the Internet to make contact with groups in Europe.

Yesterday Monika Akabusi, German-born wife of the former British Olympic runner

come through. My children have been turned away because of their colour."

Mrs Akabusi, who has lived in England for 12 years, said: "It is getting worse in Germany. My family there have told us it is not the time to come to visit because of the racial problems." She said her husband, also 38, had received letters from black people telling him he had let them down by marrying a white woman. "It works both ways," she said.

Derek Redmond, another former British Olympic athlete and the husband of the swimmer Sharona Davies, has spoken in the past of receiving hate mail. "We have

been told there are extremist magazines which have had pictures of Sharona, and me with guns to our heads."

One of the most celebrated victims of racism in Germany is the tennis player Boris Becker, who is married to a black woman, Barbara Fehlner. The couple are considering leaving Germany because they fear they are being targeted by neo-Nazis.

The German postal service has long been alerted to report suspicious packages mailed from Denmark. But no such controls exist on mail that originates in Sweden, from where the letter bombs for Britain were to be posted.

Tolkien wins title Lord of the Books by popular acclaim

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT AND ERICA WAGNER, LITERARY EDITOR

THE epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by the 25,000 voters.

George Orwell's dystopian 1984 and his political satire *Animal Farm* reached second and third places respectively, followed by James Joyce's *Ulysses*, though many of those who voted for this dense novel may not actually have read it.

More than 5,000 titles were nominated in a national survey conducted in the autumn by Waterstone's, the bookshopers, and Channel 4's Book Choice programme. The public was invited to suggest up to five books.

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, expressed disbelief at Tolkien's win. "It's a little bit suspicious. It's like Mr Major coming out as the most popular man," he said. He suggested that the author's fans might have orchestrated a campaign, a charge rejected by Martin Grossel, university lecturer in chemistry and leading light of Oxford's Tolkien Society. Tol-



Tolkien: wrote popular epic of good and evil

kien fans "are not that sort of people", he said.

Mr Waugh felt that although Orwell's support was genuine, votes for *Ulysses*, whatever its merits, were "totally bogus". He suggested that the votes either came from English literature students or from people who were showing off.

Germaine Greer noted: "As a 57-year-old lifelong teacher of English, I might be expected to regard this particular list of books of the century with dismay. I do." Good writers such as Somerset Maugham

and J.B. Priestley were among many who had been overlooked, she added.

While Kingsley Amis made the list with *Lucky Jim*, his son Martin was omitted. Some bestselling authors such as Jeffrey Archer did not make it.

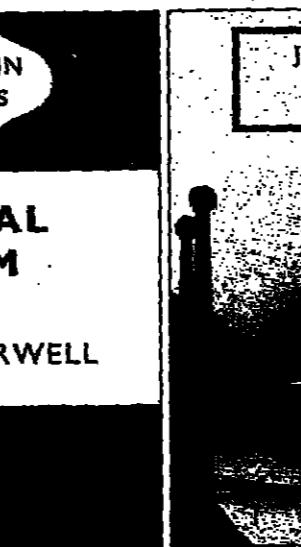
Ross Shimmon, chief executive of the Library Association, said: "It seems to me a very sound selection. It's quite interesting that it's very different from the public lending rights figures."

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, an account of three generations of Chinese women surviving the nationalist and communist regimes, is the highest non-fiction entry at No 11. It was one of only 13 books on the list by women.

Alan Giles, managing director of Waterstone's, said: "Memories fade and therefore there's an over-representation of more recent writing. If we were to conduct the survey again in ten years, I wonder how many of those would still be on the list."

The Lord of the Rings is a tale of good and evil, the story of Frodo the Hobbit's search to return the Ring of Power to its source. First published in 1954, it achieved cult status in the Sixties and has remained in print ever since. On

Winners: *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller



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Quick snip gives new hope to the infertile

By JEREMY LAURANCE

INFERTILE men have been given new hope of fathering children by a ten-minute operation developed at a London clinic. The technique, which could help thousands with zero sperm counts, involves removing a tiny piece of tissue from the testicle. The operation can be done under local anaesthetic quicker than a vasectomy.

Once removed, the tissue is divided into five mm sections which are individually frozen. The sections can then be unfrozen as required and individual sperm extracted.

The process, pioneered in Germany and developed at the Churchill Clinic in London, is simpler than the existing technique, which uses microsurgery to remove sperm from the testes and involves an operation of between two and four hours under general anaesthetic.

Rajat Goswami, director of the inventory fertilisation unit at the Churchill Clinic said that testicular tissue had been taken from 16 men of whom 14 had been found to have live active sperm. Six had IVF treatment with their wives, involving injecting the sperm directly into the egg. Two of the women became pregnant.

The method was suitable only for use in conjunction with the injection method of IVF known as intra cytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) because the number of sperm retrieved was too small for normal IVF.

About 20,000 couples a year undergo IVF, which costs between £800 and £2,000 per cycle of treatment.

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BALLOT

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

1: Education

Where the fiercest battle for votes will be fought

AT LAST October's Labour Party conference, Tony Blair said he had three priorities for government: education, education and education. Gimmickry aside, the Labour leader knew that he was addressing one of the prime concerns of voters. In a MORI poll, 51 per cent of those asked said that education would be very important in deciding their vote. This ranks it second only to health.

When pollsters ask which party has the best health policies, respondents give Labour a six to one lead over the Tories. But education is a slightly different matter.

Although Labour's policies on education are preferred to those of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, their lead is smaller than on health — and shrinking. In 1995, of voters who said that education was very important to them, 53 per cent

favoured Labour's policies, with 13 per cent for the Tories and 9 per cent for the Lib Dems. By 1996, Labour's score had fallen to 46 per cent and the Conservatives had risen to 15 per cent. The gap is still wide, but the Tories believe that they can make political capital out of their differences with Labour.

Although Labour opposed almost every Tory reform to education — such as the introduction of tests, league tables and grant-maintained schools — new Labour accepts virtually all of them. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, prides himself on taking the side of parents, rather than teachers, unlike his predecessor, Ann Taylor.

Mr Blunkett is tough on standards, homework, discipline and bad teaching, and first came up with some of the ideas that his

counterpart, Gillian Shephard, has since adopted. But on two issues there is a chasm between them: selection and assisted places.

At the 1995 Labour Party conference, Mr Blunkett managed to persuade a restive audience to accept that grant-maintained schools would stay, albeit renamed "foundation" schools. But the quid pro quo was a promise to end selection. Since then, the party has rowed back a little: the 161 existing grammar schools would be turned into comprehensives only if enough local parents signed a petition calling for a ballot and then voted against selection. Remaining schools, though, would be allowed to select only a small proportion of children on grounds of aptitude for subjects such as music. Labour would repeal the Bill currently going through Parliament which

allows grant-maintained schools to select up to 50 per cent of pupils, and others up to 15 per cent.

The Tories will capitalise in the election campaign on Labour and Lib Dem opposition to selection. Their manifesto is likely to include plans for yet more selection and greater independence from local councils for schools. Both opposition parties are also against the latter, between them they control most education authorities.

The Tories say that grammar schools give academic children a better chance of success. Labour claims that selection is fine for those children who win places in good schools, but it condemns the rest to a second-class education, and it labels children as "failures"

from the age of 11. The party would rather see setting by ability in comprehensives.

Public opinion on selection is a little ambiguous. While the most recent poll, by Harris, found 54 per cent in favour of a return to grammar schools and the 11-plus, with 37 per cent against, the enthusiasm for selection was greatest among those aged over 45. The 35 to 44-year-old age group, who are most likely to have children of secondary school age, opposed selection by a small margin.

Assisted places, which give bright children from poor families the chance to go to private schools, are also politically contentious. The Tories are extending them to prep schools; Labour and the Lib Dems would phase them out, honouring existing places, but offering new ones. Labour says that assisted

places help only "the few", while the money could be better spent reducing class sizes for infant school pupils. The Conservatives say that Labour is motivated by class envy — and that the money raised would anyway not cover the cost of ensuring that no infant class has more than 30 pupils. According to MORI, 64 per cent of Lib Dem supporters and 55 per cent of intending Labour voters approve of assisted places.

One big difference remains, but it is a human one. If Labour wins, all its Cabinet ministers with children will have sent them to state schools, and most will have been frustrated by the experience. Yet today's Conservative Cabinet is dominated by parents of privately educated children.

This cannot help but affect politicians' thinking. As George Walden, a former Tory Education Minister once said, if his colleagues' children were at state schools, "our breakfast tables would be educational battlegrounds, as our wives described in lugubrious detail the shortcomings of state schools and insisted we do something about them".

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Tories may miss out on the fruits of reform

MOST of what the Conservatives have done to reform education in the past 17 years has been with the aim of raising standards. Since 1988 there has been an education Bill going through Parliament virtually every year. Almost all of the reforms now have cross-party support and some are being copied abroad.

The percentage of pupils gaining good qualifications has risen sharply. Yet standards of literacy and numeracy have barely changed since 1979. Indeed, many believe that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

The evidence for this is mainly anecdotal: secondary school head teachers saying that their new 11-year-olds are worse at reading, or physics dons complaining about the mathematics skills of undergraduates. There is a tendency for each generation to believe that subsequent ones are worse educated. The truth is that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

The evidence for this is mainly anecdotal: secondary school head teachers saying that their new 11-year-olds are worse at reading, or physics dons complaining about the mathematics skills of undergraduates. There is a tendency for each generation to believe that subsequent ones are worse educated. The truth is that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

Maths and science are good test cases: they are the easiest subjects in which to make international comparisons. In the early 1980s there was concern that, while schoolchildren understood the basic rules of maths, they were bad at applying them to real-world problems. The curriculum was changed to incorporate more applied work, such as statistics and probability. The result is that English children now tend to perform better in these areas. But they are worse at number work, by which an older generation is more likely to judge them.

There is, however, some evidence of slippage relative to other countries. The latest international maths and science study found that English 13-year-olds scored above the international average for data representation, analysis and probability, but below the

THE RECORD

average for number work, geometry, algebra, measurement and proportionality. Overall, they dropped from three points above the mean in 1990 to nearly three points below in 1995, ranking 19th out of 27 countries. Our best mathematicians are among the highest scorers, but lower-ability students tend to perform more poorly than in other countries, dragging the average down. This wide discrepancy between the best and the worst seems to be a characteristic of state education in Britain.

Last week's international numeracy study of 16 to 60-year-olds put Britain at the bottom of the league of seven developed countries, lagging well behind Australia in sixth place. The age group that had most recently left school did even worse than its elders.

Science shows a more cheering picture than maths. Here the English were sixth out of 27 in the international maths and science study, scoring 6 per cent better than average compared with 2 per cent in 1990. The Government's Skills Audit, published recently, found that new British recruits to the workforce scored highly on information technology skills, just behind Germany and Japan, but ahead of Singapore, America and France.

Literacy is hard to compare internationally, but easier to compare over time. The National Foundation for Educational Research has found that reading standards among 10 to 11-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds have changed little since 1945. Among six to eight-year-olds, though, standards fell slightly in the late 1980s. For writing there was no overall change in the 1980s.

But even if standards are



Seven-year-olds taking national curriculum tests, which so far have had a negligible effect on raising standards.

not falling with the growing competitive challenge, Britain needs to be improving, not just standing still. The Skills Audit found this country performing badly in most areas compared with Singapore, France and Germany, generally at the bottom of the table with America. Britain's main achievement is to send a high proportion of pupils to university: one in three compared with one in nine in 1979. But the "tail" of the school system is still relatively poorly qualified.

Since the late 1980s the Government has introduced a raft of measures, including the national curriculum, testing at seven, 11 and 14, league tables, opt-out schools, and reforms of teacher training. Why have these not made a difference?

The educational establishment has shown resistance to change, from the Department for Education down to teachers in individual schools. People such as Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, who call for a return to more effective methods of teaching, are vilified by pro-

gressive, child-centred educationists. The latter's ideology has prevailed at teacher-training colleges.

The culture is changing, though. Gradually teachers and schools are coming round to the need for more rigour and for higher expectations. The information provided to parents by league tables has put more pressure on schools to succeed academically.

There has, after all, been a substantial rise in the number of GCSEs and A-level passes. For instance, in 1988-89, 28.7 per cent of 16-year-olds gained GCSE passes at grades A to C in English, maths and another subject. By 1994-95, the figure had risen to 35.2 per cent. Similarly, more pupils stay on to do A levels and the pass rate has risen from 68 per cent in 1980 to 86 per cent.

Does this mean that students are better educated and working harder? Or that the exams have become easier?

The evidence is mixed. The fact that the pass rate for Scottish Highers (the equivalent of A levels) rose by only 4 per cent in the same period might

suggest an element of grade inflation in England and Wales, with markers becoming more lenient or exam papers becoming less challenging. A comparison of English language O levels in 1980 with GCSEs in 1993 and 1994 found that pupils who were awarded C grades at GCSE would probably have been graded D or E by O-level examiners. Yet a more recent study of A levels by Ofsted, the inspection body, and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, found little evidence of easier exams or of more lenient marking. It was, however, hampered by a shortage of answer papers from earlier years.

Degree inflation is almost certainly a problem. The much higher numbers of students entering higher education ought to suggest a decline in the percentage winning firsts or upper seconds. Instead there has been a big rise. Nearly 60 per cent were awarded one of the top two grades in 1993, compared with just over 40 per cent in 1973.

At GCSE and A level, though, some of the improvement may be down to teachers being more focused on getting good results. Pupils may be better motivated, too: keen on winning a university place and more aware of the importance of qualifications in the job market.

The politicians' task of improving standards is made harder by the slipperiness of centre control and the time that it takes to make any difference. As Kenneth Clarke once said, the Education Secretary is not in charge of a single school. Levers can be pulled from the centre, but by the time their effect is felt at the periphery, the influence may be negligible.

Worst of all for politicians used to working on an electoral cycle, any improvement from their policies may not be seen for a generation. Although an expert outsider would probably declare the Tory legacy of reform to have been broadly sensible, if Labour wins the election, it could be Tony Blair who reaps the political rewards of Conservative policies.

CONSERVATIVES



■ **Nursery:** vouchers for all four-year-olds whose parents want them, extended nationwide from April.

■ **Secondary:** selection to be increased. Make it easier for schools to become grammars and for comprehensives to have "grammar streams". Grant-maintained schools will be able to select up to half their pupils by ability without asking permission. Manielle will probably bring in even more selection and greater independence for schools from local education authorities (LEAs). There may be takeovers of "failing" LEAs and a reduction in the powers of all LEAs. A levels more rigorous and exam boards reduced.

■ **Further:** learning credits, extending entitlement to education or training to the age of 21, will help colleges to compete with school sixth-forms. Expansion to continue.

■ **Higher:** kicked into touch by setting up National Commission on Higher Education, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing. Will report a few months after election. Greater concentration of university research.

■ **Adult:** refresher courses to improve basic skills. Career Development Loans to be promoted for vocational training.

■ **Teachers:** Training Agency to devise new curriculum for initial teacher training. Qualification for head teachers.

■ **Private:** Assisted Places Scheme being extended to prep schools.

LABOUR



■ **Nursery:** mixture of state and private provision for all four-year-olds whose parents want it. Existing vouchers to be honoured, future ones scrapped. Childcare to be added to nursery education.

■ **Primary:** assessment on entry. More focus on three R's. Classes no more than 30 for first three years. Encourage phonics in reading and whole-class teaching for maths. Encourage setting by ability within classes. All 11-year-olds to reach chronological reading age. At least 30 minutes' homework a night for 7 to 11s. Summer literacy camps.

■ **Secondary:** five GCSEs at grade A to C as target for all. Aim for 80 per cent to stay on after 16. Grant-maintained schools to be renamed "foundation" schools. Local bursaries, if parents want, on existing grammars. Increase independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children. GCSE and A levels replaced by National Certificates, with academic and vocational qualifications.

■ **Further:** school-to-work and apprenticeship programmes encouraged. At least two days a week off job training or education for 16 to 19-year-olds in work. All without jobs trained by local Techs.

■ **Higher:** all fees paid. Maintenance loans could be paid back through national insurance.

■ **Adult:** learning accounts to pay for more education and training.

■ **Teachers:** General Teaching Council to control entry and practice. More in-service training. Salary structure based on achievement and responsibility. Poor teachers retained or dismissed.

■ **Private:** charitable status extended to state schools. No VAT on fees. Assisted places phased out, but LEA bursaries for special needs or talents.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



■ **Nursery:** for all three and four-year-olds. Early years to have first claim on extra £2 billion for education. Working or in-training parents get tax relief on childcare.

■ **Primary:** reception classes no bigger than 30 — target for all classes. National curriculum slimmed and replaced. Modern languages "where practicable". Tests replaced by Record of Achievement — children to be entered for tests when ready. £500 million for repairs to primary and secondary schools.

■ **Secondary:** return grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges to "light-touch" local education authorities (LEAs). Opposed to selection. Let communities decide on existing grammars. Increase independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children. GCSE and A levels replaced by National Certificates, with academic and vocational qualifications.

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Q Which party has the best policies on education?

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Surrogacy mother may face test case over baby

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SURROGATE mother who refused to hand over a baby after allegedly accepting £4,000 from a childless couple will learn in March if she will be charged with an offence, in what could be a test case.

Greg and Deborah White had decided to find a host mother after Mrs White suffered several miscarriages and three failed attempts to have a test-tube baby. Mr White, 38, and his 40-year-old wife had spent £7,000 on infertility treatment.

They contacted the organisation run by Britain's first surrogate mother, Kim Cotton, Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy, in September 1995, and were put in contact with Angela Richardson, whom they knew as Diane. Ms Richardson, 28, of Derby, told them that she was divorced with two children and did not want any more of her own.

She asked for £10,000 for the baby, plus £120 a month expenses and £50 a fortnight for a cleaner. She said she was a radiographer. On January 10, 1996, Mr White went to Derby for three days to provide sperm for artificial insemination. Two weeks later, Ms Richardson telephoned them to say that she was pregnant.

In July, she wrote that she had changed her mind about giving them the baby because her fees were not being paid promptly enough. In October she gave birth to a son, Isaac. The Whites, from Bath, contacted a solicitor, who was told by Ms Richardson that she was not Mr White's.

In December, Derbyshire Police arrested Ms Richardson, who is now on police bail.

The law cannot require a baby to be handed over unless the surrogate mother has signed an agreement with the father, allowing him to ask magistrates to give him the child at six weeks.

Childlessness - Overcome Through Surrogacy previously did not meet potential surrogates, acting mainly as a contact organisation and advisory service. It now has face-to-face counselling.

Ms Cotton said that surrogacy should be properly regulated and run by in-vitro fertilisation clinics able to carry out police and medical checks on potential surrogates. Voluntary arrangements are legal in Britain if no profit is made. Doctors' leaders have provided ethical guidelines allowing expenses up to £10,000 to be paid. Ms Cotton called for Parliament to make contracts legally enforceable.



The ship's bell receiving attention from Radio Operator Pete McCraw. Britannia leaves Portsmouth this morning on her final voyage. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

Poignant destination for Britannia's last trip

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Yacht *Britannia* embarks on her last major voyage today. Her final duty will be to preside over the closing of another chapter in the history of the British empire - the handing over of Hong Kong to China.

HMY Britannia sails with a crew of 234 and a Royal Marines band. The trip will take her to the Mediterranean, the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Far East. However, it is her arrival in Hong Kong on June 23, for the handing over at midnight on June 30, that will provide the most poignant moment before she goes to be decommissioned.

The bandsman, on board for the seven-month deployment, will strike up as *Britannia* leaves Portsmouth this morning with the crew lining her decks. A few minutes after midnight on July 1, they will play again as *Britannia* heads out of Hong Kong with the Prince of Wales and Chris Patten, the colony's last Governor. They will leave to the accompaniment of a fireworks display.

The crew are volunteers, and when *Britannia* is decommissioned at the end of the year they will have to be reintegrated into the mainstream Royal Navy. Some have served on the Royal Yacht for more than 20 years.

Britannia does not employ Hong Kong Chinese laundrymen but has her own volunteer Royal Navy sailors to carry out the washing duties. About five of the yacht's crew will be responsible for the laundry during the overseas deployment. This will include laundering the Prince's clothes during his stay on the yacht.

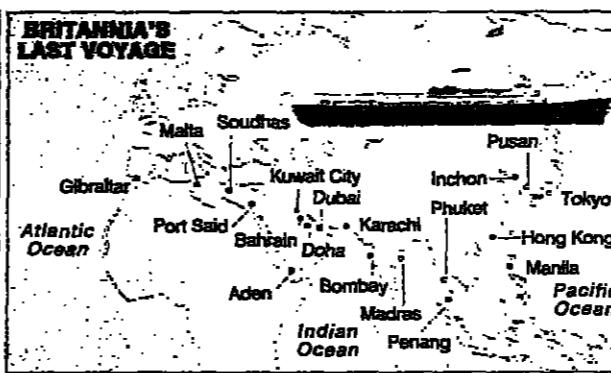
He is due on board next month when *Britannia* arrives in Kuwait and will stay with the yacht while she visits Bahrain, Doha and Qatar.

He will rejoin *Britannia* for a visit to Saudi Arabia, and then for the Hong Kong ceremony. He will be dropped off at Manila in the Philippines about July 3.

Britannia's first port of call will be Malta in a week. The rest of the swansong voyage will include Egypt, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea.

Britannia is part of the Royal Navy's Ocean Wave deployment which consists of about 20 surface ships, submarines and support vessels.

HMS Illustrious, the aircraft carrier, left on the deployment last week. For her visit to Hong Kong, *Britannia*, com-

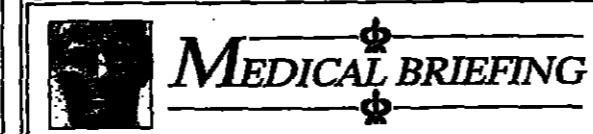


During the tour the yacht will be the venue for a number of trade promotions.

After the visit to Hong Kong, she will steam back to Portsmouth via Manila, Crete and Gibraltar, and will then take up routine royal duties, including taking the Queen and other members of the royal family on their traditional Western Isles cruise.

The Government is coming under pressure to say what the future holds when *Britannia* is taken out of service. A decision on whether the vessel will be replaced has been delayed, and last week Christopher Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, would only say: "It is a decision the Government has to make. It is not an easy decision."

Tablet side-effects may brighten the long, dark nights



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE publicity surrounding Prozac, the pill form of fluoxetine, has ensured that the five anti-depressants known as HT reuptake inhibitors have become the accepted and safer treatment for mood disorders.

There are many other medicines which work in the same way as Prozac by decreasing the body's reuptake of serotonin and noradrenalin, so that higher levels of these chemicals, which determine the degree of happiness or misery, circulate in the central nervous system.

There are minor variations in the action of each of these anti-depressant drugs. A conference in Norway has been shown evidence that one of them, Lustral, a tablet form of sertraline, has an unexpected side-effect.

Lustral is the drug of choice for patients who become depressed once the winter nights lengthen. This form of depression, known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), produces bouts of melancholia in winter and is related to the amount of sunlight to which a patient is exposed.

SAD can be countered if the sufferer is prepared to spend many hours a day sitting in front of artificial sunlight, but psychiatrists were told at the

Norwegian conference that a daily single dose of Lustral was not only an easier treatment but apparently much more effective.

The five HT reuptake inhibitors not only have slightly different roles in psychiatry but also varying side-effects. They may all, in some patients, produce nausea, headache, diarrhoea and tremor, but these symptoms usually disappear once the patient becomes accustomed to the drug.

In about a fifth of patients taking them, this group of anti-depressant drugs tends to diminish sexual drive. It is claimed that Serotaf does not diminish the libido in this way and that it and Lustral have an effect on male ejaculation. If just the right dose of either of these drugs is achieved, the dark winter nights may be revolutionised for men with SAD, leading to undreamt-of sexual prowess.

Lustral, like the four other HT reuptake inhibitors, should not be taken by people suffering from liver disease or epilepsy. It is incompatible with some other anti-depressants and slimming pills, and there are other possible drug interactions. Care is needed if the patient is on anti-psychotic drugs.

manded by Commodore Anthony Morrow, will be escorted by the Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham.

Britannia's last voyage is being seen as an opportunity

to extract the maximum publicity both for British business and diplomacy. British ambassadors and high commissioners along the route have all put in requests for visits.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital turns away patients as staff fall ill

A Wiltshire hospital has so many staff on sick leave that it can admit only the critically ill, officials said yesterday. More than 30 staff at the 536-bed Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, are absent due to illness. This has coincided with an upturn in emergency admissions, leaving doctors unable to cope with routine cases.

River death

A man who leapt into the Thames to escape police is believed to have drowned. Two officers who had approached the man in Kingston, southwest London, tried to save him after he jumped in about 6am yesterday. A body was found later.

Phone fault

BT admitted that it had had to correct a software fault in up to 5,000 cardphones in public callboxes after it was discovered that fraudsters had been making free international and domestic calls from the telephones, which were installed last summer.

Driver run over

Police appealed for witnesses after Thomas Jones, 40, was run over as he returned to his vehicle after running out of petrol. He was crossing the northbound M80 at Denny, near Falkirk, after buying petrol at a service station on Saturday night.

Virus hits frogs

Thousands of frogs are dying from an unidentified virus that causes open sores, wasting, bleeding from the mouth and rotting limbs. The Frog Mortality Project found it is feared that, particularly in the South East, entire colonies have been wiped out.

Handless body

The handless, badly burned body of a man was found on a track in shrubland in East Sussex yesterday. Police were treating the discovery of the body in Hastings Country Park as suspicious, although they said there was no clear evidence of foul play.

Shake-up in international clubland will raise crop of resentful outsiders

When the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet empire imploded, outfits such as the European Union, Nato and the United Nations that made up the "West" sailed serenely on as if the new era would require only cosmetic adjustments to the way they had done business.

The EU kept crawling towards the federal dream defined by its founding fathers of the 1950s. Nato suffered a passing identity crisis, but recovered its nerve. The UN found a new peacekeeping role, but lost a lot of respect. The world had turned upside



down, but the institutional machinery just kept turning. The real earthquake occurs this year: the members of the alphabet-soup organisations will be shaken up like letters

in a game of Scrabble. For the first time in decades and on a scale never seen before, the networks which make — but sometimes only enforce — the rules of international conduct will draw fresh lines across the map of Europe. A new age of invidious distinctions is dawning.

In July a Nato summit will probably "invite" three or four Central European states to join the alliance, leaving a queue of disgruntled also-rans outside the door. "Flexibility" clauses inserted in a new Maastricht treaty, under discussion in Brussels today, will accelerate the EU's

division into separate clubs. By the middle of this year, the split between exactly which countries will be inside and outside the single currency will be starker.

Because money now drives integration, Western Europe reaches a parting of the ways. If the euro gets off the ground, nothing will matter much to those aboard the new money except keeping it airborne. The needs of the new currency zone will take precedence over everything else, including over the rest of the EU. Stress levels are

rising. EU governments resent American pressure to promise early membership to Baltic states such as Estonia, to console them for their inevitable exclusion from Nato.

Will Greece, located at the most volatile corner of Europe, feel relaxed when shut out of monetary union? How will the Italian electorate, which watched its political class collapse once already this decade, find life on the outside?

New cracks in old patterns, however, can release opportunities. Assume that Britain stays out of the single currency.

say, no politician has yet found language to debate such speculations. In particular, politicians of the 1990s find it hard to free themselves of the understandable Cold War habit of thinking that a serious country must be a member of any and every international club. The next political generation will have to take a hard-headed look at the benefits and costs of each membership on offer.

The long-running Bosnia crisis tested the EU, UN and Nato almost to destruction: the Dayton peace deal was bro-

kered by five governments meeting under the auspices of no institution at all.

Politicians such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will talk a lot in the next 12 months about the all-embracing unity of the EU family and of extending it to Central Europe. It is one of the bizarre ironies of history that a German leader, heading the nation which has so compulsively collected club memberships since the war, is pressing changes which may fracture more than they bind.

GEORGE BROCK

Staff of troubled Paris bank hold executives hostage

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

WORKERS at the Paris headquarters of Crédit Foncier held senior executives hostage for a third day yesterday in a protest over government plans to shut down the loss-making bank.

About 500 workers occupied the ornate 19th-century building on the Rue des Capucines on Friday and prevented Jérôme Meysonnier, the bank's state-appointed governor, from leaving. Four other officials were also being held by the demonstrators.

Credit Foncier, a venerable 145-year-old property lender that was once the second largest issuer of bonds after the State, had been bailed out by the Government last year after sustaining huge losses.

Plans to sell off the bank's core businesses to Crédit Immobilier, the property credit group, and then dismantle what remains have prompted anger among employees who fear the loss of at least 900 jobs from the bank's workforce of 3,300.

Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, broke off a tour of western France on Saturday to hold talks with the protesters, which ended in stalemate. "We are disappointed. We had been waiting for a sign that the Government was willing to change its mind about



Meysonnier: governor a captive in own bank

private institution, the Government controls senior appointments at the bank because of its role in issuing subsidised loans. In 1995 the bank lost Fr10.8 billion (£1.3 billion), and last year the Government stepped in with a rescue package to stave off collapse.

M Arthuis criticised the workers' protest, describing the detention of bank officials as "a form of brutality which prevents us from moving forward". He said that, unless another buyer for the ailing bank came forward, the existing plan to hive off the housing loans business and wind up the rest was the only available option.

Resurrecting Crédit Foncier would cost French taxpayers up to Fr5 billion, M Arthuis said. The Government said a bank collapse would wreak havoc in financial markets.

"If we don't get what we want, we are ready to sit here for as long as it takes," Michel Deswert, another union official, said. Delegations of Crédit Foncier workers travelled to Paris from branches around the country to join the protest. Union leaders said relay teams of "squatters" would go into action if the occupation was extended through this week.



Shipwreck boy is saved

A three-year-old boy, shipwrecked in a cove after a sightseeing boat sank in heavy seas off Spain's Canary island of La Palma is carried to safety by a rescuer. Two German tourists died when a strong swell smashed the leisure boat against rocks on Friday

night in the popular tourist spot of Cueva Bonita cove, in the northeast of the island. The dead were named as Hermann Planck, 64, and Beate Sitta Sauppe, 52. Their bodies were recovered yes-

terday. The rescue group that went to the aid of the survivors — five Germans, one Swiss and one Spanish crew member — were also trapped on a small beach inside the cove overnight, a

spokesman from the Civil Guard in Tenerife said. They found shelter in a cave. All those trapped were recovered when the rescue operation resumed on Saturday morning. One German tourist broke a number of ribs, according to police. (AP/Reuters)

Pakistani mourners run amok

Islamabad: Crowds mourning the death of extremist Sunni Muslim leaders killed in a bomb attack ransacked and set on fire Iranian culture centres in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday (Zahid Hussain writes).

The protesters chanted slogans against Iranian leaders, accusing them of masterminding the incident on Saturday in which a remote-controlled bomb exploded inside a court building, killing 26 people, including Ziaur Rahman Farooqi, chief of a militant Sunni Muslim organisation, and injuring 80 others.

Joy in Bulgaria over new leader

Sofia: Thousands of people danced at a rally in the Bulgarian capital to celebrate the swearing in of Petar Stoyanov as President. He has supported opposition demands for a quick general election to break the country's political deadlock. Protesters have staged 14 consecutive days of mass rallies against economic hardship blamed on the ruling Socialists. (Reuters)

Miami officials asked to resign

Miami: Ed Marquez, Miami's new city manager, intent on rebuilding the administration after a financial crisis and corruption scandal, has asked all of his 15 top managers and department heads to resign. Joe Carollo, the Mayor, has blamed the city's \$68 million (£41 million) budget shortfall on previous mismanagement and corruption. (AP)

Greek farmers fight strikers

Athens: Farmers in Crete, who have been unable to get their produce to markets on the mainland, fought striking seamen at the weekend, as Greece lurches towards a second round of unrest (John Carr writes). The seamen, who object to plans to do away with their tax-free status, have been on strike for eight days.

Norwegian hits Antarctic target

Wellington: George Ousland, 34, became the first person to walk across Antarctica alone and unaided when he arrived at New Zealand's Scott Base on Saturday. During parts of the 1,800-mile walk he retraced the 1911 route of his fellow Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, the first person to reach the South Pole. (Reuters)

Luther King son follows father

Los Angeles: Martin Luther King III, the son of the assassinated American civil rights leader, has announced that he is forming a new group to advance black causes (Giles Whittell writes). Mr King said the group would oppose enemies of "affirmative action" programmes.

Austrians surprised by exit of Vranitzky

By ROGER BOYES

FRANZ VRANITZKY, the Austrian Chancellor, has resigned and offered the job to Viktor Klima, his Finance Minister. The move at the weekend took the country by surprise and exposed the hidden crisis that has been bubbling below the surface of Austrian politics since it joined the European Union in 1995.

Herr Vranitzky, 59, claimed yesterday that he simply wanted to step aside for younger talent after 10½ years at the helm of the Social Democrat-led coalition. He denied that he wanted to run for President or seek a European Commissioner's job. Fatigued, personal and political, may well have played a big role in the decision of the former national basketball player.

Over the past year, he has seen Jörg Haider, the right-wing populist, eat away at the grassroots support of his Social Democrats, appealing to the fears and prejudices of Austrian workers disenchanted by what they regard as the meagre benefits of EU membership. That led to a plunge in support for Herr Vranitzky at last autumn's European elections, the dislodging of the Social Democrats in Vienna and a very shaky coalition with the conservative People's Party.

The Government had looked close to collapse over the past fortnight as the two parties argued over the priva-

tisation of Creditanstalt, Austria's second largest bank. The Chancellor survived and seemed set to steer Austria at least until general elections in 1998/99. The energy seemed to have oozed out of the man, however, and his once voracious appetite for power has long since gone.

The prospect of an election campaign fought again on European issues — it will coincide with the introduction of monetary union — seems to have depressed the Chancellor. His chosen successor, by contrast, has proved he is able to launch a strong offensive against Herr Haider and shown himself as more than a match in debate. Moreover, it



Vranitzky: more than ten years at the helm

Milosevic 'prepared to unleash new war'

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BELGRADE

SERBIA lurches into a third month of street protests yesterday with the opposition coalition's leader, Vuk Draskovic, giving a warning that President Milosevic was preparing a bloody last stand.

Unfolding events in Kosovo, where a bomb explosion in the capital, Pristina, on Friday signalled a possible provocation against Serbia's Albanian minority and the spectre of another Balkan conflict, have cast a pall over Belgrade's colourful, noisy and imaginative protests. Mr Draskovic told a 40,000-strong

crowd yesterday that the Kosovo blast was no coincidence, since it took place when Mr Milosevic had lost virtually all credibility and support in Belgrade. It bore the hallmarks of a ploy by a cornered President with a history of saving himself at any cost, including all-out war.

Mr Draskovic added: "He solved the problem of the small war in Slovenia by making the bigger war in Croatia, and after that he so-called solved the war in Croatia by promoting disaster in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The blast left Professor Radivoje Papovic, the pro-Milosevic rector of Pristina University, and his driver seriously ill. No one has admitted responsibility, but Serbia's Socialist media machinery blamed "Albanian extremists in league with the Zajedno (Together) coalition".

Another confounding force in Serbia emerged at the weekend with a message of support from Crown Prince Alexander, son of the former Yugoslav King Peter. It drew rapturous applause from Saturday's crowd, which chanted "we want a king".

Mr Draskovic assured supporters that, with Zajedno in power, they would be able to choose between a "democratic republic or constitutional parliamentary monarchy". He told *The Times* that he preferred the monarchy's restoration as a counterweight against dictatorship.

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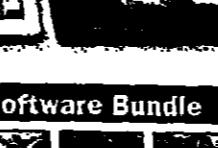
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Hebron crowds hail triumphant Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON

YASSIR ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of 32 years and made a speech conciliatory to the 450 remaining Jewish settlers.

The beaming Palestinian leader, given a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of jubilant Palestinians, also claimed that the peace process had been transformed now it had been joined by the right-wing Likud Party of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — "a friend and a partner in peace".

"Now, with this Hebron deal, we have signed peace with all the Israeli people," the former guerrilla leader said. "This is something new... We will make peace together in the Middle East hand by hand, heart by heart, soul by soul." He called for the peace treaties between the Jewish state and Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be followed by peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Standing on the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, Mr Arafat, for

dressed in his chequered keffiyeh and his olive-green fatigues, told the crowd: "I say to the settlers here in Hebron that we do not want confrontation... we want a just peace."

Although the militant settlers living under heavy military guard less than two miles away rebuffed his gesture and

"I say to the settlers, here in Hebron, we do not want confrontation, we want a just peace"

described him as a "master murderer", Mr Arafat's message was hailed by David Bar-Ilan, the Israeli Prime Minister's communications director.

"Israel welcomes the conciliatory speech by Chairman Arafat, a welcome contrast to the incendiary and inflammatory speech given the day before by the head of the preventive security forces of the Palestinian Authority, Jibril Rajoub, who called for

Israeli forces in the Six-Day War of 1967, raised new hopes that he and Mr Netanyahu can reach a final peace settlement by the set date of mid-1999.

Saeb Erekat, a leading Palestinian negotiator, told Israel radio: "We have proved that negotiating in pain and frustration for a year is much cheaper than fighting for five minutes. I am sure that by the end of the century there will be a Palestine next to Israel."

Hebronites who flocked to the hilltop fort created a festive atmosphere rarely seen in Hebron, a city with a long history of violence between Arabs and Jews. "With our blood and soul, we sacrifice for you, Abu Ammar," they chanted, using Mr Arafat's nom de guerre.

"We waited a long time for you," read one of the slogans in the crowd, expectant of further moves towards their elusive independence, shouted "Long live Palestine". Asmil al-Jahoun, a 57-year-old mechanic who had been imprisoned in the fort, which doubled as an Israeli jail, voiced the general mood. "For the first time, we now feel that we are masters of our own destiny. It makes us very, very happy."

Another Hebronite, Hassan Sulaiman, said: "I longed for this day for so many years, so many days, so many months to see my President here. Even a week ago I would not believe it could happen, that the redeployment of Israeli troops from 80 per cent of



Yasser Arafat gives a double victory sign to tens of thousands of Palestinians in "liberated" Hebron yesterday

Hebron would actually go ahead."

Mr Arafat, who arrived by helicopter, told his supporters: "I declare Hebron a liberated city." The next goal was to take control of the rest of the West Bank and establish a

new Palestinian state. As the crowd cheered, he added: "We will continue until Jerusalem."

Aware that Hebron is a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Mr Arafat boosted his standing by assuring the

crowd that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the blind, wheelchair-bound Hamas spiritual leader, would eventually be released from the Israeli jail where he is held and that the remaining Palestinian women prisoners held by Israel would be set free "in a few days". Foreign observers said the size and enthusiasm of his welcome in a city noted for its Islamic fervour showed the growing support among ordinary Palestinians for a peace process that Hamas opposes.

Hutu extremists kill Spanish relief workers

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUTU extremists have unleashed a wave of terror across Rwanda, culminating in the weekend murders of three Spanish aid workers and a witness who had given evidence against alleged genocide leaders at United Nations trials in Arusha, Tanzania.

The three dead Spaniards — a woman and two men working for Médicos del Mundo — lay in pools of blood yesterday. They had been shot in the head at the compound where they were living at Ruhengeri, 140 miles northwest of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

An American escaped death but needed to have his leg amputated. Three Rwandan soldiers were killed defending the compound, which also houses workers with Save the Children, who are providing medical relief for Hutus returning to Rwanda.

In Madrid, Médicos del Mundo named the Spaniards as Manuel Madrazo, 42, a doctor from Seville; María Flors Sirera, 33, a nurse from Lérida, and Luis Valtuena, 30, a photographer from Madrid who was working as an administrator. In Paris, the parent organisation, Médecins du Monde, announced that it was suspending all activities in Rwanda.

A diplomat said that Hutu militiamen had gone to the house on Saturday night. After checking the Spaniards

passports, they had shot them at point-blank range.

It was the latest in a series of attacks on aid workers, hospitals and foreigners in Rwanda which have escalated since the return of more than 600,000 Hutus from eastern Zaire at the end of last year.

A senior Rwandan military officer said: "These attacks are deliberately mounted to scare away expatriates."

A UN official said: "As soon as we have talked to the Rwandan Army we will be discussing whether or not to suspend operations." On the same night a grenade was thrown into an aid worker's house, he added.

Last week Hutu extremists murdered a prosecution witness, her husband and seven children after she appeared before the UN trials, at which she was promised protection from killers bent on silencing witnesses to the genocide in 1994. The woman had testified against Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former Mayor of Taba, 20 miles south of Kigali.

Mr Akayesu has been indicted for his alleged part as a leader in the killing of more than 2,000 people in Taba between April and June 1994.

The UN has refused to divulge the identity of the dead witness. But it is thought that she was a Hutu who knew Mr Akayesu well and had accused him of personally killing men, women and children, and of calling for the extermination of all Tutsis.

Honoré Rakotomanana, the deputy prosecutor for the UN tribunal, said that he was reviewing the witness-protection programme.

■ Kigali: A court sentenced three former teachers to death for helping to plot Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which half a million people were killed, Rwandan radio reported yesterday. A court in southern Butare on Friday had convicted the three Hutus of mass murder and crimes against humanity, the radio report said. (AP)



Akayesu: accused at trial by murdered witness



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BT It's good to talk

Balloonist heads for landing in India

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

STEVE FOSSETT, 57, plans to abandon his round-the-world balloon flight today after a record-setting run from the American Midwest.

Flying at 23,000ft and 120 knots, he passed into Indian airspace yesterday and was expected to touch down between Delhi and Calcutta this afternoon after breaking the balloon endurance record of six days and 16 minutes at 0619 GMT.

The American commodities trader decided to abort his effort to circle the globe after concluding that he did not have enough fuel to cross the Pacific. His ground crew said fuel had been wasted in changing course when Libya refused him permission to overfly the country, even though Colonel Muammar Gaddafi later relented.

"We cannot blame it all on that," said Rick Saum, the

mission's technical director in Chicago. "He has used more fuel than he should have and we have a lot of experience and we do not know why."

The silver 150ft double-skinned *Solo Spirit* mission has been the longest of this year's three round-the-world attempts. Richard Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* was forced down by equipment problems in Algeria two days into its flight. The Swiss psychiatrist Bertrand Piccard ditched in the Mediterranean six hours after take-off when paraffin fumes filled his cockpit.

Mr Fossett has beaten his own distance ballooning record of 5,435 miles, set on a 1995 flight from South Korea to Canada. If he lands east of Delhi he will have covered about 10,000 miles since taking off from St Louis, Missouri, last Monday.



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second-
offer

Second-term Clinton to offer hand of peace

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TRUE to his reputation for last-minute preparation, President Clinton will spend this morning polishing the last phrases of his inaugural speech before being sworn in at noon in front of the Capitol for a second term as President of the United States.

Despite temperatures plunging below freezing, hundreds of thousands crowded into the capital ready to celebrate, while banks and hotels decked their facades in 600 American flags.

Mr Clinton intends his speech to "help flush the poison from the atmosphere", after months of acrimony between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. He has spent weeks poring over the inaugural addresses of America's greatest Presidents. The thrust of his speech will be the assertion that government has a central role in improving people's lives.

Mr Clinton, in an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, says that his first term was marked by "big battles" with Republicans over this principle, a fight he regarded as settled in his favour when Republicans shut down the government and provoked public hostility.

On Saturday night 16,500 fireworks, costing \$500,000 (£230,000), were let off from ten separate sites around the city. The Grucci family, which calls itself the First Family of Fireworks, co-ordinated the show from a tiny room in the

USA Today building south of the Potomac river.

Mr Clinton, who had earlier cancelled his attendance at a fund-raising dinner on the ground that it would appear inappropriate partisan, watched the show from the White House balcony.

Although the White House has deliberately made Mr Clinton's second inauguration a more subdued affair than the first, the Mall, the avenue running from Capitol Hill past the White House, has been packed with thousands of visitors since Saturday, although the cold weather has kept the crowds well below

Gingrich 'must pay his fine from own funds'

LEADING Democrats yesterday pressed for Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to pay the \$300,000 (£180,000) fine recommended by an ethics investigation from his own pocket rather than from campaign funds. (Bronwen Maddox writes.)

Mr Gingrich's office was reported as saying that there were precedents for using campaign funds to pay such fines. The comment provoked outrage from Democrats and campaign reform groups, who said the use of campaign funds would make the same "a joke".

After the election, Mr Gingrich's campaign committee had made more than \$1 million in cash, and his political action committee had \$27,394 in cash. James Cole, the committee's special counsel, said on Friday that Mr Gingrich had to pay the penalty "the right way. If he doesn't... there's a chance of being back" before the ethics hearings.

The House will vote tomorrow on whether to accept the ethics committee conclusions that Mr Gingrich misled his colleagues about his use of tax-exempt charitable funds for political purposes.

ranging from the solemn to the cute. Bands and dancers have been competing across the country for months to be selected for the honour of participating. Military bands will head the parade, followed by groups such as Darla's Dancers of Ohio, who will perform a clog dance, and the Mid-American Pompon All-Star Team of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Tickets along the 1.7-mile route cost \$10, \$50 and \$100, becoming more expensive towards the White House. More than 3,000 of Washington's policemen and hundreds of Secret Service men have been monitoring the route for weeks. Dozens of municipal workers are on hand to clean up after the 360 horses and a donkey, the Democratic symbol.

The climax of the celebrations will be tonight's 13 inaugural balls. But for many in the capital, it is the private parties which are the greater attraction. MTV and Condé Nast took over the elegant Corcoran Art Gallery for a party for 2,000 guests on Saturday night, at which Hillary Clinton made a brief appearance.

□ Boston: Paul Tsongas, a former senator who pushed ahead of Mr Clinton to become the Democratic frontrunner for President briefly in 1992, died of pneumonia. He was 55. (AP)

Inauguration guide, page 15



Fireworks light up the sky above the Washington Monument at the weekend

Pastor 'arrested smoking cocaine'

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

AN EPISCOPALIAN pastor at a troubled New York church has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his sermon.

The Rev Canon Chester LaRue made headlines as a "fighting father" last month when he reportedly fended off two burglars at St John's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn during the Christmas holidays by kneeing one of them in the groin. One of the burglars later told police, however, that a man living above Mr LaRue in the rectory was running a drug delivery service from the church. Customers would use a beeper to contact the man, Ruben Serrano, and he would send a messenger to deliver cocaine, it was claimed.

Undercover officers decided to raid the church premises. They found Mr LaRue dressed in clerical garb and typing his sermon on a computer with a crack pipe in his hand. "It was kind of odd to frisk a man of the cloth," said Lieutenant Kevin Barry, the commander of the local police precinct.

The bespectacled Mr LaRue, 54, told police that he had first smoked crack cocaine to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit, but quickly found out he was wrong. "To my great surprise, I like it," he reportedly confessed.

Police said Mr Serrano and his girlfriend were also arrested when they were found packaging crack.

Parishioners were stunned by the news. "Holy goodness," said one. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes."

The congregation was only just emerging from the last scandal at St John's, which is known as "the church of the generals" because Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson both worshipped there.

The last pastor, George Hoeh, was strangled by his homosexual lover at his holiday home in New Jersey in 1986.

Second witness sought in Cosby killing

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

POLICE believe the killer of Emnis Cosby was a white man of average weight and height, aged between 25 and 32, with heavy features and a close-fitting woolen hat. A composite sketch of the suspect was issued on Saturday, two days after the 27-year-old, only son of Bill Cosby, the entertainer, was found murdered next to his car in west Los Angeles.

"We're not by any shape desperate,"

Tim McBride, the police commander, said, although he admitted that leads pointed in "lots of directions" and called on the public to help to identify the chief suspect in Hollywood's latest tragedy.

In a new twist to a crime whose motive is still being described as robbery, a sketch of a possible second witness was also released on Saturday. The man, who was white, with a goatee beard, was seen leaving the murder scene in a blue hatchback with out-of-state number plates. Although he is wanted as a

witness, police refused to rule out the possibility that he might be a suspect.

Both sketches were based on interviews with the 47-year-old screenwriter Mr Cosby was on his way to visit when he was shot dead while changing a tire. Summoned by mobile phone, the woman witness had gone to help by shining her headlights on his stranded Mercedes.

Experts believe delays in issuing the sketches, caused by the witness's traumatised condition, could hamper the investigation.

Exxon seeks oil tanker's return to Alaska waters

Los Angeles: In a move bitterly fought by Alaskan natives, the Exxon oil company is lobbying for its *Exxon Valdez* tankers to be allowed back into Prince William Sound, seven years after running aground there with catastrophic results (Giles Whittell writes).

As part of an Oil Pollution Act passed in the wake of the

11 million gallons oil spillage, the *Exxon Valdez* was banned from Alaskan waters. Exxon's lawyers now claim that the company is being victimised by an unconstitutional retroactive application of the law.

"It is impossible to overstate the depth of Exxon's insensitivity to the Alaskan natives," Gary Mason, a lawyer, said.

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مكتبة من الأصل

WHY THE BAJAA MONOPOLY MUST BE STOPPED

BY SIR FREDDIE LAKER.



Sir Freddie Laker shortly before the collapse of his airline in 1982, after which transatlantic airline fares soared.

Dear Prime Minister,

When, in 1982, my Skytrain was forced out of business, the British and American flying public lost out.

Transatlantic fares rose, because BA and the other members of the transatlantic cartel had little or no competition. The public had no choice but to pay the increased fares.

I know that my airline was sabotaged by aggressive and unfair tactics by BA and others, to which the authorities turned a blind eye.

After the event, the then Conservative transport minister Ian Sproat even said "I've got Freddie Laker's blood on my hands!"

Now BA and American Airlines are wanting to form a monopoly on transatlantic routes, which will allow them again to overwhelm other airlines, put their prices up, and force competition out of the market place.

Clearly, this can only be in the interest of BA and American. Leopards never change their spots!

For the following reasons, I believe the BA/American deal should be stopped.

Currently, the Office of Fair Trading are looking at draft undertakings which will limit the power of the merger.

The undertakings are mild, ineffective, and will still result in BA and American having a massive monopoly on transatlantic routes.

Monopolies in any other industry are illegal and are not in the public interest.

With such an overwhelming monopoly, the public and certainly other airlines will lose out again. There is no doubt that, like all monopolies, BA and American will use jugular marketing and other 'cartel' style price cutting, including 'dirty tricks' of the kind that drove Skytrain out of business. Then, as before, fares will skyrocket.

If, as BA and American claim, the merger will produce lower fares and create more competition, why are they seeking anti trust immunity from the US government?

Prime Minister, the answer is simple. They intend to 'fix' fares.

The Office Of Fair Trading's report on the merger currently recommends that BA and American must relinquish seven pairs of take off and landing slots per day on a permanent

basis for the seven carriers wishing to fly from Heathrow to the US.

That's one slot each. It's hardly going to lessen the power of the monopoly. BA and American will still control between 70% and 80% of the peak take off and landing slots.

Furthermore, in practice, BA and American are not obliged to give up actual transatlantic slots by the OFT.

Instead they could, for instance, give up European, or even domestic services, such as Plymouth to London!

This wouldn't diminish the power of the monopoly at all on transatlantic routes, though it might mean some UK cities losing their Heathrow flights.

What's more, BA are demanding that they be given the right to sell the slots, which in my and many other people's opinions is extraordinary. The slots belong to the people. We paid for them as taxpayers. Why should BA benefit whilst the real owners, the people, pay a premium for their own airport slots?

Meanwhile all this does is make the monopoly even more powerful by giving it huge amounts of extra revenue.

In conclusion, I believe both politicians and the public are currently being duped into thinking this monopoly will be less powerful than it actually will be.

This cosy cartel is an affront to fair play and equality. And, I believe, it is contrary to anti trust law.

BA and American Airlines must be made to compete on a level playing field with airlines such as Virgin Atlantic, United, and, indeed, the new Laker Airways Incorporated.

As the Consumer's Association said recently "We continue to hold the view that this alliance must be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and must ultimately be blocked."

Please, Prime Minister, remember the past. Make sure this 'merger' is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Because, should it be allowed to go ahead, the British flying public will have to live with its dire consequences for many years to come.

Freddie Laker

Sir Freddie Laker.

When the face is an open book

Faces excite and delight, attract and repel us at the same time, they inform us. I can learn so much about you from a glance. Have we met? Where are you from? Are you happy, angry or sad? Are you interested in me? In a noisy room, I can read your lips. The human face is the clearest picture of the human soul — even if it sometimes lies.

Given the feast of social signals on offer from the face, we might expect our brains to contain some sophisticated equipment for decoding them. Research conducted over the past 15 years, much of it in Britain, has borne this out. A spectacular example appeared in *Nature* recently, in a study of fear.

Charles Darwin is the grandfather of this line of inquiry. He published *The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man* in 1872, extending his theory of the evolution of physical form into the realms of emotion and behaviour. He believed, like contemporary sociobiologists, that these also have a natural history.

Darwin conjures up fear with some relish: "It is often preceded by astonishment, and is so far akin to it, that both lead to the senses of sight and hearing being instantly aroused... the eyes and mouth are widely opened and the eyebrows raised, as the frightened man stands like a statue motionless and breathless."

In the middle of this century, Darwin's views on emotion became unfashionable. Amid general scepticism that biology played a big part in determining human behaviour, anthropologists concluded that there is no "natural" language of emotional gesture. But persuasive work by Professor Paul Ekman, an American psychologist, and others in the Seventies overturned this.

Professor Ekman found that a small group of facial expressions conveys similar emotions the world over, although social convention affects when and where we display them. Fear, anger, happiness, sadness and disgust are now generally agreed to be "universal" emotions, equally evident on faces in New Guinea and Newmarket. There is some strong evidence that we do not need to learn how to express these emotions: blind children begin to display them at much the same age as their sighted peers.

In a similar vein, psychologists have long suspected that interpreting facial emotion is a specific ability, independent of the ability to identify faces. Patients with "prosopagnosia", such as Professor Oliver Sacks's *Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, may be unable to recognise faces, but sometimes remain able to decode their expressions.

Until recently it seemed a reasonable assumption that this ability to read emotion from the face was a unitary psychological capacity. In other words, it was thought that

How do we know at a glance whether somebody is feeling angry or unhappy? Adam Zeman on decoding the language of facial emotion

the recognition of all emotions took place in the same region of the brain. However, the exact location of this region was far from clear. Work over the past two years, reported independently by Professor Andrew Young and Dr Andrew Calder from the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and by Dr Ralph Adolphs and Dr Antonio Damasio at the University of Iowa, has pinpointed a structure in the brain crucial to reading facial emotion, supporting the notion that such abilities are special. In fact, they turn out to be even more selective than we thought. This structure is not required for reading all the emotions; it specifically enables us to see anger and fear.

This conclusion came from work with a patient whose amygdala had been damaged surgically on both sides of the brain, as a way of controlling her epilepsy. Similar in size and shape to an almond, the amygdala is tucked in beneath the surface of the temporal lobe, a part of the brain lying on the other side of the ear.

The patient in question, known as DR, had no difficulty in recognising familiar faces. She did seem poor at reading facial emotion. But as work progressed it became clear that detecting the signs of happiness and sadness, surprise and disgust, posed no problem for her, and she was somewhat unreliable with anger. But she was all at sea with fear.

This made sense. It is known from research with animals that their amygdala are active in circumstances that provoke fear or anger. Patients with epilepsy arising from the amygdala sometimes experience surges of these emotions during attacks. Finally, the amygdala receive a rich stream of information from visual areas of the brain which are excited by faces, first identified by Dr Edmund Rolls and Dr David Perrett at Oxford University in the Eighties. If any region of the brain should play a part in perceiving the signs of fear in a face, then it is the amygdala.

The question asked by Professor Chris Frith, Professor Young, Dr Perrett and collaborators at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology at Queen Square in

London, and answered in *Nature*, was elegantly simple. What happens in the normal human brain when it is confronted by a fearful face?

Two technical advances have made it possible to address this question. Positron emission tomography maps areas within the brain that become activated when it performs a task. Computerised graphics allow the creation of an evenly graded series of "morphed" expressions running between one emotion, like happiness, and another, like fear.

The team at Queen Square examined the activation of the brains of normal subjects looking at faces whose expressions traversed the spectrum from happiness to fear. The subjects were not asked to concentrate on facial emotion; their explicit task was to decide the gender of the faces. But as the "percentage" of fear increased, so did the activation of the amygdala.

These observations are taken a step further in another research paper, by Dr Sophie Scott, Professor Young and colleagues, published last week in *Nature*. Could damage to the amygdala cause problems in recognising the sound of fear, as well as the sight? Do we read the human voice with the same neural equipment with which we read the human face?

So it seems. Patient DR had comparable difficulty in recognising the intonations that convey a speaker's anger or unease. She was poor at identifying the emotion conveyed by an angry growl or a fearful scream. However, her ability to discriminate similar sounds, such as "zog" and "zeg", or "house" and "mouse", and environmental noises such as the patterning of rain, remained unimpaired. This finding beautifully illustrates two broad principles of brain function. The first is its fine division of labour: in spite of the seamlessness of our ordinary experience, distinct brain areas enable us to perceive colour, to detect movement, to recognise faces — and even to see fear. The clearest proof of this fact is that each of these abilities can be independently impaired.

The second principle is complementary to the first. The brain has to take the world apart to comprehend it, but it needs to re-integrate the parts when it generates action. This need can give rise to surprising combinations of function. The amygdala, for example, seem to mediate fear in all its aspects: as we experience it, as we express it, and as we perceive it in others.

"I will show you fear in a handful of dust," wrote T. S. Eliot. Dr Damasio, Professor Young, Professor Frith and their colleagues have tracked it down in an almond, at the intersection of emotion, perception and behaviour in the brain.

• The author is consultant neurologist at the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh



A few facial expressions are universal, but psychologists believe that interpreting them is a specific ability

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□ Black holes solved □ HIV vaccines □ The happiest nations

A STAR apparently swallowing clouds of gas from its neighbour has provided scientists with the clearest evidence yet that black holes, the Universe's strangest objects, really exist. Though no great surprise to astronomers, the evidence is a gratifying confirmation that Einstein's theory of general relativity was right in predicting their existence.

A team from the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, looked at nine pairs of stars in which one is pulling gas away from the other. Dr Ramesh Narayan and colleagues told the American Astronomical Society meeting in Toronto last week that in five of the nine pairs, the massive object attracting the gas is a neutron star, left behind after the collapse of a huge star. The energy from the streaming gas makes the neutron stars glow more brightly.

But in the remaining four pairs the energy simply dis-

Swallowed by a star

This is the most direct evidence scientists have that black holes are real."

A second study presented at the same meeting reached the same conclusions by an entirely different technique. Professor Douglas Richstone of the University of Michigan and colleagues ana-

lysed data from the Hubble Space Telescope and identified three new black holes, all in galaxies within 50 million light years of Earth.

From the Hubble images they worked out the movements of stars at different distances from the centre of the three galaxies. "Based on the size of the galaxy and the velocity pattern of the stars at the core of the galaxy, we can also predict its mass," said Professor Richstone.

The analysis was aided by a new computer model, developed by Dr Karl Gebhardt at the university, which predicts how the stars should behave around a black hole. Basically they move faster as they get towards the centre, like water going down a plughole.

The team says that the mass of each black hole is proportional to the mass of its parent galaxy, suggesting that the growth of the black hole is linked to the formation of the galaxy. "We believe a massive black hole exists at the centre of nearly every galaxy in the universe," Professor Richstone said.

Monkeys key to HIV vaccine

VACCINES against HIV, the AIDS virus, may have come a little closer as a result of research reported by Dr Ronald Derosiers of the New England Primate Research Centre.

Earlier work had shown that monkeys can be protected against the simian equivalent of HIV by injecting them with a weakened version of the virus responsible, SIV. The problem was that

while large doses of the vaccine protected adult monkeys, they actually caused the disease in newborns.

Now Dr Derosiers has reported in the January issue of *Nature Medicine* that if lower doses of the vaccine are used, infants do not succumb. Only those given the highest doses got the disease. This suggests that a vaccine based on attenuated HIV could provide protection without too much risk of infection, so long as the dose is precisely calculated.

All vaccines based on attenuated viruses have a small risk — the polo vaccine, for example, is responsible for about ten cases of the disease a year.

Iceland laughs the longest

WHO are the happiest people on Earth? A Dutch team led by Ruud Veenhoven of Erasmus University has attempted to find out, measuring the quality of life in 48 countries by looking at how long and how happily the population of each lives.

Iceland comes out top, with an average of 62 years of happy life, and Bulgaria bottom, with less than 32 years. Britain is gratifyingly

close to the top, scoring 57.9 years, ahead of America (57.7), France (55.3) and Germany (51.6).

People live longer and more happily in rich nations than in poor ones, but there is a limit to the effects of wealth on the quality of life. For socialists, the bad news is that there does not seem to be any correlation between income equality and a better quality of life.

But the survey brings little comfort to conservatives, either, showing that countries with rigid religious systems and strong family values score poorly. Personal freedom helps, and so do better education and employment opportunities for women.

THE TIMES

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What my older, wiser brother said about

IMPOTENCE

People who suffer from it get fed up, just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition. *Impotence* I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London WC1X 3TA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

A man, a woman — and all the flavours of Eden

ASPECTS OF LOVE

In Part One of a series in which leading women writers examine love in the Nineties, Helen Dunmore explains how food and intimacy are inextricably linked

To write of food with love is the most innocent of 'pornographies'. Say that Bernard has got up early and gone to market. He comes back with a basket of woven straw, in which nestle four fat, perfectly ripe figs. He gives the basket to Julia. Figs for breakfast. Their skin is as soft as suede. Julia chooses a fig and breathes in its spicy, sun-warmed fragrance. Bernard produces a bowl of thick yellow cream. Julia dips her finger into the cream, raises it to her mouth, and bites. The luscious, warm, grainy flesh melts into the cool unctuousness of cream. Years later, Bernard and Julie will never be able to separate the taste of figs from that of one another's lips.

Food, fruit, a man, a woman, sex. We are talking about Eden, and an Eden without food is impossible to imagine. Babies know about Eden when they latch on to the nipple, and stroke their mothers' breasts to draw down the milk. Most of us develop a private Eden of food, which may well be purgatory to other people. I love the litany of apples: Egremont Russet; Kidd's Orange; Charles Ross; James Grieve; Beauty of Bath, with its charming name and brief moment of flavour before it turns to flame.

Then there are marzipan bars wrapped in bitter chocolate, muscated raisins in triangular boxes, and crusts torn from fresh white bread and covered with butter. My husband loves the correct drawing of a pint of Guinness, showing dry, black, velvet hairs. Guinness is certainly considered as a food rather than as a drink in our house, if not as a religion.

The sharing of these private Edens is one of the most intimate delights. Children suck a coffee bar to a point, then hold it out to share with a friend. Friends cook for one another, showing off cherished dishes. Lovers drop their guard still further and admit to a passion for sandwich-spread sandwiches, tinned peaches with Carnation milk, or a greedy heap of hot buttered toast in bed.

A smart dish of salmon

couliac can be shared with anybody, but a pair of plump Craster kippers, cooked in a jug and eaten with plenty of brown bread and butter, and much separation of whiskey bones from the succulent flesh: now there's a meal for people who really know one another.

Some very old shopping lists get written between those who are prepared to admit to the quirks of their food desires. And then to shop together, to smell coffee being roasted in one shop, to watch ham being shaved off the bone in another, or to queue in the warm bakery to buy rolls, overnight bread and a cream cake in a white box. Or simply

poured into endless cups of instant coffee. The family swallows snatched meals and is still hungry; the food lies in each stomach in cold clods. In the final stages each person forages alone, arms huddled round a tray of TV dinner as if embracing their own misery.

It is hard to put a finger on all the delicate threads which connect food and emotional wellbeing, but very easy to see when these threads are broken. I think of the look of hurt, defensive misery in the face of a heavily overweight boy whom I saw alone in McDonald's, shovelling down his food in a way that made sure he could not enjoy it. Or the candle-wax skin of an anorexic girl, who has taught herself to think of food as a foreign language she need not speak.

Jane Eyre, at Lowood School, is doubly starved. The meagre food she gets is ruined by careless cooking. The porridge is so burnt that the ravenous children can't eat it. They wither from malnutrition, and from the lovelessness of the institution. When Miss Temple tenderly feeds Jane and the dying Helen Burns on exquisite fragments of toast and cake, they are lifted into another world. That scene moved me deeply when I first read *Jane Eyre*, as a child. Very soon the feast is over and the midwinter of Jane's physical and emotional life resumes, but I loved the way Jane clung onto her appetites. She had nothing, but she knew how to hunger.

Jane Eyre resists the burnt porridge. I make myself a cup of tea and dunk digestive biscuits in it, as I used to do with my mother when I was six years old. I would race back from school in order to get her to myself, with the baby asleep and my older sister not yet home, and we would drink tea together. These are things that go on for ever: the early winter twilight, the slap of my own running feet, the back door bursting open, the sweet smell of the biscuit dissolving on my tongue.

• Helen Dunmore's book of short stories, *Love of Fat Men*, will be published by Viking in June, price £16

THE BIGGEST MEDICAL COMPLAINT FOR PEOPLE OVER 50 IS

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Most of us develop an Eden of food, which may be purgatory to others, says Helen Dunmore.

A President's ball is anything but a party

THE SECRET is out. For the Inaugural Balls tonight, after Bill Clinton has been sworn in a second time as President of the United States, Hillary Clinton will wear a clinging tulle gown with matching satin cape by Oscar de la Renta. Her meetings with dress designers began soon after the election and speculation about the outcome has occupied gossip columns and dinner parties ever since.

Meanwhile, Washington's boutiques and hairdressers have been overrun. Ed Solomon, of Anthony's of Georgetown, gentlemen's outfitters, usually charges \$39.95 for hiring an Oscar de la Renta tuxedo, but expects his prices to rise to \$100 by today. "Women will shop for three years for the perfect dress, but a man will wait until the last day before renting," he says.

After weeks of such



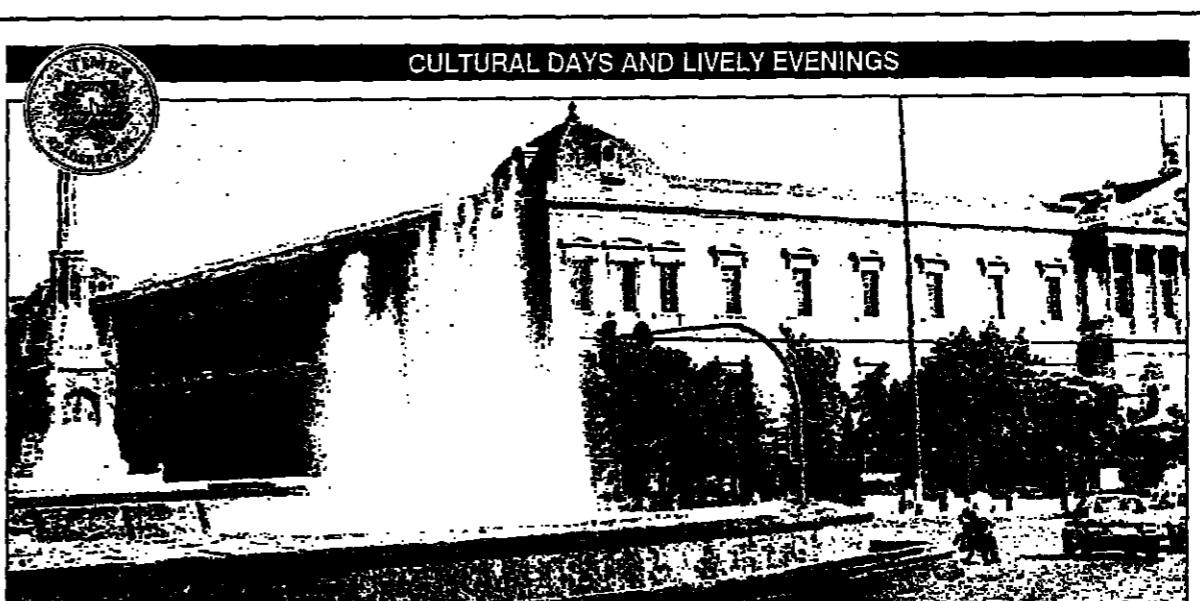
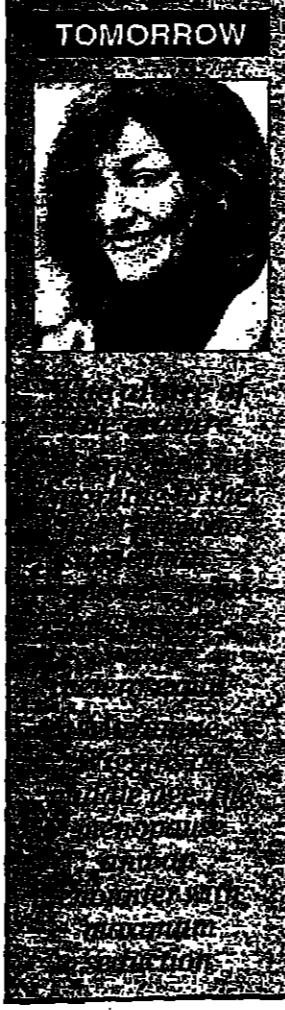
Hot couple: the Reagans

efforts, disappointment is inevitable, veterans say. Traditionally, it is ferociously cold. One President — William Harrison in March 1841 — refused to wear hat or coat while delivering an hour-long speech, and died of pneumonia a month later. At Ronald Reagan's inauguration, trumpets froze to bandsmen's lips.

But there will be no hot food, other than hot dogs from street vendors. Organisers have planned only light snacks, with a cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks. One seasoned ballgoer says: "The food table starts out looking nice, but after an hour no one will go near, it looks so disgusting. And it's almost impossible to drink too much because you can't get to the bar." Most disappointing of all, no one has room to dance.

For those at the most exclusive private parties, the next morning may bring a much-coveted mention in the *Style* section of *The Washington Post*. However, survivors of the official balls are likely to share the verdict of Washington insiders that most people don't go more than once.

BRONWEN MADDOX



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Pupils in Britain do less homework than in other countries. John O'Leary asks if they

Homework's coming home



No link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results

Nineteen out of twenty parents think homework is important, according to a Government-sponsored report last week. Politicians obviously agree, since they have been straying increasingly into this unaccustomed territory. But that is where consensus ends.

School inspectors find that homework is the hottest issue at most parents' meetings: invariably, one group wants more while another thinks their children are given too much. In the political arena, there is equal disagreement about whether teachers need national instructions on how long pupils should labour.

So why has homework suddenly become the educational buzzword? Cynics say because it is cost-free. But a more realistic explanation lies in the surveys showing that most British pupils get off lightly compared with those in countries with better results.

British pupils between the ages of seven and 12 were found to do much less homework than their counterparts in France, Germany, Japan, China or the United States. The American market research company Roper Starch found that only 42 per cent of the British sample were set work on three or more evenings a week, compared with 90 per cent or more elsewhere.

By the age of 14, the average load in Britain has risen to six hours a week, although the variations between schools are immense. In Hungary, Holland, Poland, Israel, Italy and Japan, the average is more than eight hours.

Yet the evidence suggests that the amount of homework set in British schools has been growing. While almost a quarter of secondary school pupils do less than two hours' homework a week, according to Keele University's national database, 7 per cent do more than ten hours. Parents find themselves often doing the homework, thereby distorting the results and defeating the purpose of the exercise.

A study by the National Foundation for Educational Research found that more than 40 per cent of 11-year-olds were never expected to take work home. In the following year, after transfer to secondary school, almost two thirds of pupils were doing less than Labour's recommended 90 minutes per night.

In many independent and grammar schools, however, as well as the more academic comprehensives, overload is the main concern. For every disgruntled parent, who feels that their child is not being stretched, there is another worried about the pressure of projects and coursework. Conscientious girls, in particular, will toil late into the night.

At King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in Birmingham, one of the top state schools, the norm for 11 to 13-year-olds has been reduced from 90 minutes to an hour a night because of fears that other activities were suffering. Elspeth Insh, the Principal, said: "Cutting the time spent on homework does not mean we don't think it's important. I think it is vital to the learning process. But in our case the girls were doing too much."

Even the hardest taskmasters hardly compare with the pressures on pupils in the high-performing countries of the Pacific Rim. Homework in Japan builds up from about an hour a night at the age of ten to four hours as university entrance examinations approach. Some schools expect teachers to visit pupils' homes to check assignments are being done.

Professor Michael Barber's report for the Department for Education and Employment conceded, like others before, that no link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results. Academics, like politicians, are agreed that homework makes a difference, but they cannot say how much.

JOHN O'LEARY



School inspectors find homework is the hottest issue at parents' meetings: some want more, others less

HISTORY OF CONCERN

HOMEWORK began as "prep" in 19th-century boarding schools. In day schools it was a response to the establishment of HMI schools inspections and the creation of public examinations. Teachers, whose salaries were linked to examination results, gave homework to pupils who required extra coaching. This consisted of learning by rote - sums, tables and spellings to be tested in class.

The issue attracted little further attention until the 1930s, when, after an HMI survey, the Board of Education set homework quantity at one-half hour to two hours a night for secondary pupils, none for primary pupils, and that clubs, hobbies and sport should be as important as academic study in the home. To achieve this, staff were instructed to set homework relevant to class work and not to underestimate time required for tasks. In the poorest inner-city districts, reading schemes were established.

From this period, up until the 1970s, hours of homework appeared to remain constant - averaging 30 minutes per night for 11 to 13 year-olds, one to three hours for 14 to 15 year-olds and two to three hours for 15 to 16 year-olds.

IN the 1970s, school boards and teachers' unions argued that the home was no place for study.

The most radical shake-up of homework came with the introduction of the national curriculum, league tables and GCSEs in 1986. Julian Stern, an educational consultant based at London University's Institute of Education, says: "With renewed concern about school standards, greater emphasis on exam results, and the introduction of coursework as a contribution to qualifications, homework has been formalised."

These changes also saw a transformation in the content of homework. Traditionally it focused on exercises to practise particular operations or processes, verbal memorising, revision of previous work and preparation for a coming lesson. Today it is designed to nurture individual research, open up areas of study and make use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom.

Now concern is being voiced once again about the circumstances under which homework takes place. "A particular worry regarding standards in the new curriculum is the degree of help some pupils are given at home," says Michael Barber, whose study on homework was published last week. "Standards are naturally easier to control through exams."

BRIDGET HARRISON

'Digging in books can be fun'

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS IS HORRIBLE

Name: Lucy Shilton, 11
School: Shenfield School, Essex (mixed comprehensive). Year 7.
Homework: 9 hours/week.
"My first reaction was, 'yuk, this is horrible.' I wish we'd done some more homework at my primary school."

Janet Shilton, (mother)
"Her homework routine is

disciplined; I am responsible for ensuring that she completes her tasks. One problem with switching the onus on to parents is that you are frightened of interfering with your child's homework... You are also apprehensive as to whether you will actually be able to answer their questions, especially if you aren't academic yourself."

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THE TIMES

TONIGHT

FOOTBALL

An interview with Nicholas Hytner, director of the new film adaptation of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible".

West Ham v Liverpool
look to improve their positions in the Premiership

The ultimate football challenge
Interactive Team Football with a
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Aspects of Love

Day two of women

writing about love

The ultimate football challenge
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

Paintings by Gary Hume and Fiona Rae offer an illuminating contrast at the Saatchi Gallery
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ COMEDY

Vegetable passion: John Hegley goes *Dancing with Potatoes* for six nights at the Bloomsbury
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ CABARET

Fascinating Aida bring their mixture of humour and harmony to the Vaudeville Theatre
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ THEATRE
Lindsay Duncan stars as Pinter's *The Homecoming* goes on stage at the Lyttelton
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Am I the only one to be a little disappointed at the eventual consensus which has delivered the bulk of millennial money to an already engorged South East of England? I am sorry to be a spoilsport but I am from the North. Which also matters literally in this case because we are talking about Greenwich. If a family of four from north Cumbria wanted to go to the mega-tent pressed on us by the Metropolitan Millennialists, it would cost about three days and £300 at least. Most wouldn't make the journey.

I admire the tenacity of Simon Jenkins and his board. I admire the wizardry of Richard Rogers and the strategy of the Greenwich cabal which sees this as a once-for-all clean-up and set-up of the area for the 21st century. However, the scheme I propose is more just and more fun than the current Greenwich-or-bust scenario. Perhaps a glitch will yet be revealed (not such a subversive thought — how much will the thing *really* cost?) and this

could let in the rest of Britain and let the whole island take off.

I know that the Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain were staged in London and it is our capital, but times have changed. All over Britain there is great energy going into cities which are speaking out and ought to be heard. This is the opportunity to show off our variousness and not merely to emphasise once again the undoubted truth that London is a great world city.

Of course there should be millennial celebrations in London and there are, in fact, several on the way. I can see the attraction of one Big Bang. But that attraction peters out when you consider the multiple bangs which would come from all around these islands were power given to the cities. It would be a visible demonstration that we

can order things differently, that outside the great sun of London there are fine planets well worth the exploration.

A total of £600 million seems to be available without everyone falling out. I suggest that it is split into 11 parts. Ten of £50 million each to ten cities; one of £100 million to London. The ten cities could be Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich and Southampton. A £50 million bounty for these cities would spur them on in civic competitiveness to increase the sum, double it I would guess. London with its £100 million could also be jolted into competition and who knows what body London Pride would eventually bring.

The Greenwich project is buttressed by an appeal to the number

of new jobs created. How many more new jobs would be created across Britain with ten more cities involved? At Greenwich we are shown a derelict landscape which

would benefit from being cleaned up. But there is Post-Industrial Trauma in city landscapes all over Britain and they, too, need cleaning up. We are told the Greenwich venture would bring more tourists to London but how about bringing more tourists to the ten other cities? If one wanted a little fun, each of the ten could take something from one of the past ten centuries and use it as a launch pad for their spend. Southampton, for instance, could take the Norman invasion. Manchester the first Industrial Revolution; Bristol, our first great century of commercial colonisation.

There is something too predictable about reacting to the millennium by plonking yet another building in London and, rather ironically, that it is being put next to such a magnificent set of build-

ings, some of which are being flogged off.

Many cities in this country have had a hard time of it recently with the termination of so many skilled and labour-intensive industries. All over the country people have been fighting to regroup and ignore the blighted landscapes of their past with its dream of everlasting emptiness.

The year 2000 should be grasped as an opportunity to build a bridge to the future and escape what has been a nightmare of a century in many ways for us. London Bridge cannot be the only bridge.

The lottery money has gone overwhelmingly to London. Benefits abound in London and that is what a capital is for. But there are times when it is more imaginative

and more generous that we all go forward together. If we did then my family from north Cumbria could nip off for a day to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or Manchester or all four. Few would be disenfranchised by distance or finance. The year 2000 is not a monarchical occasion which properly belongs to London, nor is it a national beating of the chest which happened in 1851 and 1951. Whatever your religion, it is a date on a calendar which could be the first time in history that everyone on the planet was aware of at the same time.

The trauma over the mighty pavilion in Greenwich tells us that there is a disturbance at the root of the idea. London ought to be well served, yes, but other cities must also be on the map. Cities whose time for real recognition has come again. Give them the word and they will fight up the islands. Is this great opportunity now lost forever? Or just for another thousand years?

This is his life

THE appearance of Michael Aspel and his Big Red Book is the sort of cheap thrill a critic scarcely dare hope for in the course of duty. But there they were, just as Julian Bream was about to break into a Villa-Lobos encore at the end of a concert to celebrate 50 years of professional life.

The guitar and the lute have been Bream's life, from his debut in Cheltenham in 1947 at the age of 13, on to tours of five continents, OBEs and CBEs; and from the most elusive Elizabethan lute-song to a Hollywood soundtrack.

A tiny cross-section of that life was glimpsed in Thursday's concert, as the varying relationships of different composers with the guitar were sampled. Those who wrote specifically for the instrument were represented by Robert de Visee, a musician at the court of Louis XIV, Takemitsu's *In the Woods*, a suite of three pieces was as highly distilled as Walton's *Five Bagatelles* were flamboyant. Neither Granados's *Danzas españolas* nor Bartók's *Petite Suite* was written for the guitar. While the Bartók, Bream's transcription of six pieces from the *44 Duos* for two violins, seemed stiff-jointed, the Granados was an intriguing reincarnation of music originally intended to evoke the guitar through the voice of the piano.

Bream now seemed indefatigable. If Aspel's lute had not been waiting, the party might well have gone on all night.

The two Bourrées provided a daunting handful of notes

CONCERT

Julian Bream
Queen Elizabeth Hall

for an instrument lacking both the resonance and the sustaining power of the cello, but Bream's unbroken legato and subtle playing over the rose made it seem effortless. Takemitsu's *In the Woods*, a suite of three pieces was as highly distilled as Walton's *Five Bagatelles* were flamboyant. Neither Granados's *Danzas españolas* nor Bartók's *Petite Suite* was written for the guitar. While the Bartók, Bream's transcription of six pieces from the *44 Duos* for two violins, seemed stiff-jointed, the Granados was an intriguing reincarnation of music originally intended to evoke the guitar through the voice of the piano.

Bream now seemed indefatigable. If Aspel's lute had not been waiting, the party might well have gone on all night.

HILARY FINCH

Sweet music to Belfast ears

Luke Clancy
on the opening
of a new £32m
concert hall
for Belfast

A sense of passage, from one age of Belfast to another, was palpable when the city's sparkling new £32 million concert hall opened with a gala show on Friday evening. The Waterfront Hall rises on the banks of the River Lagan, in a part of the city where the skyline was formerly dominated by Belfast's most eloquent monuments, the stern, mustard shipbuilding cranes marked H&W.

Now, however, the new, optimistically glassy domed, oval building stands as the city's most imposing work of architecture, the structure that will, inevitably, become the symbol for Belfast in the next century. The hall, designed by the local architect Victor Robinson, resembles a fresh Modernist take on the Albert Hall.

tered, while also maintaining a sense of labyrinthine mystery, with plunging stairwells and viewing platforms dotted the upper storeys. The finish is white, with steel, wood and glass as the signature materials.

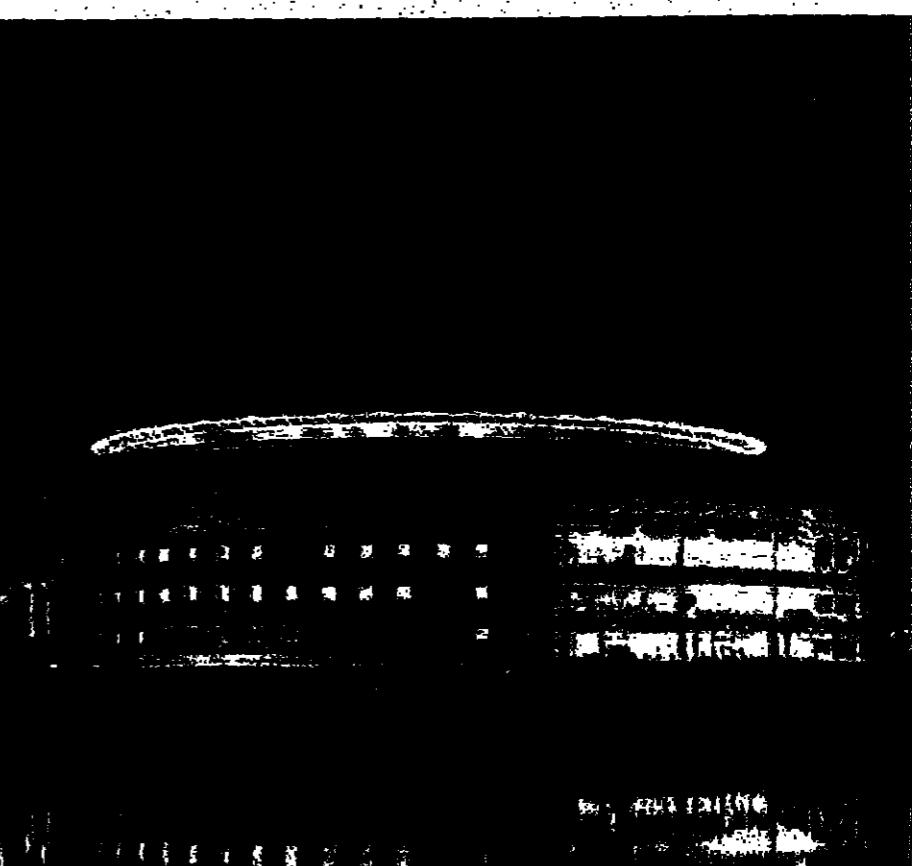
Once inside the main auditorium, the impression is of acoustic functionality, with the steeply raked terrace seats grouped into a series of reverberating corrals. The steep rake of the upper balconies keeps the acoustic precise and the auditorium disarmingly intimate, even though it seats well over 2,000. A further structure nesting alongside the main oval houses a 500-seat studio theatre.

In the future, it is likely that the hall itself will stand out a little less boldly on Lagan-side. The central structure, already flanked by hoardings bearing the name of an international hotel chain, will soon be joined by 450,000 square feet of offices, a multistorey car park and a shopping area.

A sense that the Waterfront might also offer a strong platform for the enhancement of corporate prestige was clear from the enormous logo of the hall's first season sponsor, emblazoned in green laser light across the building's facade.

Inside there was also a sense of an audience containing some who were not regular concertgoers. When the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition-winning local pianist Barry Douglas rested briefly after the first movement in his performance of Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*, many applauded.

Earlier, another local son, the flute player James Galway, may have judged the occasion better, when he played Lorin Maazel's *Irish*



Belfast's Waterfront Hall: "it resembles a Bush Modernist take on the Albert Hall"

Vapours and Capers: a piece

studded with well-loved Irish

tunes such as *Molly Malone*,

The Galway Races, and, of

course, *Danny Boy*.

Douglas directed his encore

a little more deliberately to

towards the crowd, and closed

with a solo piano rendition of

the evening's most popular

tune, it was certainly not the

last time that *Danny Boy*

would drift through the Wa-

terfront Hall.

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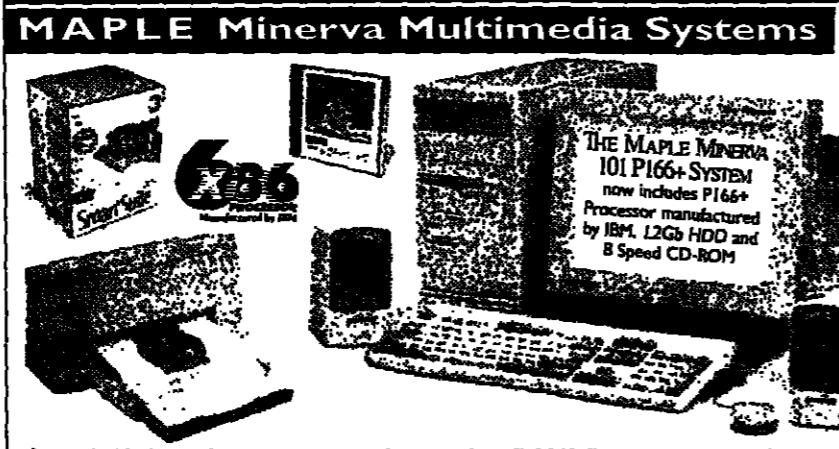
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■ FILM

The inner torments of an 11-year-old are explored in the much-feted *Welcome to the Dollhouse*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

The Divine Comedy, better known to his mother as Neil Hannon, heads a varied bill at London's Astoria
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ BOOKS

Joking apart: Howard Jacobson dissects the essence of *Comedy* in a new study
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



■ MUSIC

Moonlighting: Maurizio Pollini plays Beethoven's most famous sonata at the Festival Hall
RECITAL: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Everything but the Union Jack

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on ENO's staging of *The Italian Girl in Algiers*

It has a snappy title, a popular overture, and was one of the young Rossini's greatest hits in 1813. But it was written in a hurry (and it shows) and *The Italian Girl* is perhaps the weakest of his "not-the-Barber" comedies, not a patch on *The Turk in Italy* or the absurdly neglected *Piedra del paragone* ("The Touchstone"). It is also the trickiest to bring off today, given that the butt of the somewhat crude humour is a massively stupid Muslim. I'm not seriously suggesting that there's a danger of farwahs flying, but even those among us most resistant to PC must feel a little queasy at the stereotyping.

In his amiable new production for English National Opera Howard Davies neatly (consciously?) sidesteps the problem by making it all *frightfully British*. When Isabella, the *Girl* of the title, raises the Italian flag to signal the communal escape from the Corsairs of Algiers, you are surprised it isn't the Union Jack being hoisted to sort out some Pirates not a million miles from Penzance, and for the interminable and "Pappataci" ceremony the Bey Mustapha is got up as Captain Jas. Hook. The cosiness of it all is emphasised by Robert David MacDonald's surprisingly conventional new translation, and some dance routines hideously reminiscent of small-town Gilbert and Sullivan. Of *italianità* there is barely a whiff, and jokes about sex are virtually ignored.

Never mind, it all looks very pretty in Tim Hatley's permanent set — a series of latticed arcades on a revolve — and colourful cos-

tumes, Arabian Nights for the Algerians, Edwardian for the Italians: when Isabella arrives at the Bey's court she looks like Elton Glyn bent on exploring the Wilder Shores of Love. And we're really there for the music, at least the good bits, and the Swiss conductor Valerian Reymond leads a spry, nicely balanced orchestral performance of the 1982 critical edition, always giving the soloists time to phrase expressively yet building up a fine frenzy in the fast movements.

And there's some lovely singing. Delia Jones (Isabella) sounds like Marilyn Horne in her best Indian-summer period: her tone beautifully smooth and velvety, her chest voice used sparingly and always in the interests of Rossinian humour, her decorations wonderfully suave and easy. This is a performance of great wit and understanding. As Charles Workman suggested, in Saturday's paper, Lindoro is just about Rossini's most difficult tenor role — a tucker of top Cs in the first two numbers alone — and perhaps his only mistake was not to let the audience hear just how difficult it was. As Isabella's walker, Taddeo, Alan Opie was most hampered by the lack of Italianness, but did what he could, and the American bass Henry Runey negotiated Mustapha's roulettes with honour, strutted like a bantam cock and sort of avoided the worst pitfalls of the character. Some musical pleasure, then, otherwise a romp. Even second-rate Rossini deserves better.

Never mind, it all looks very pretty in Tim Hatley's permanent set — a series of latticed arcades on a revolve — and colourful cos-



Alan Opie (Taddeo), Henry Runey (Mustapha) and Charles Workman (Lindoro) in Howard Davies's "frightfully British" production of Rossini's opera at the Coliseum

This time, Ophelia chooses life

OPHELIA charms Clare Bayley's rich, discursive new play. In 1947 Tilly played the part in an upmarket production before she divvied up a wife and "convinced" her to banishment to the kitchen and living room. In 1997 Izzy, her 14-year-old granddaughter, is nervously preparing to tackle the role at school. And the screen that *suzids* mid-stage gives us regular glimpses of the wan, helpless face of Elizabeth Siddal, who was Millais' model for the dead Ophelia before she made her doomed marriage to Rossetti.

The surface reason for Siddal's presence is that she is central to a lecture being given by the Frenchwoman who, back in the Paris of 1968, befriended Celia, who is Tilly's daughter and now Izzy's mother. But her and Ophelia's more important function is as

an oasis and warning. That's how dependence, repression and exploitation can leave a woman — *hence* Tilly's a flowerless rose, *hence* Izzy's a flowerless rose, *hence* Elizabeth Siddal, who was

Bayley's play runs two obvious risks. It could be preachy and it could be sketchy. It is certainly not the first, and it is seldom the second. When six women are playing 16 roles, and the action hops unpredictably between three eras, some characters and thoughts are bound to be more fully explored than others. The portrait of the Parisian lecturer in her revolutionary days ("first we take power, then we talk about the details") is a bit pat and predictable. The chronological references — five-inch-deep baths, the Hovercraft, George Best — could be less obviously signalled. But

as an impressionistic picture of three generations of women, their similarities and their differences, the play is mostly sharp and suggestive.

The year 1997 finds Anna Niland's Alzheimer-afflicted Tilly wondering, as she leaves a house she never liked for the "home" where she will die, if it was "all a waste of time". Helena Lumbery's Celia has abandoned her novel-writing ambitions to become a journalist specialising in interviewing women whose paths she cannot share: a shrewd

and serene nun, a regression therapy nut who is convinced she was once Napoleon's mistress. Laura Macaulay's bouncing Izzy clearly has some of her mother's rebelliousness and some of her granny's caution — what will the world let her make of them?

Men are absent, as they were from Caryl Churchill's thematically rather similar *Top Girls*. Catherine Cusack, Hannah Miles and Hilary Leon complete Andy Laverne's fine cast. Skilfully projected film and video images, sometimes evoking an era, fill out the Young Vic Studio's surprisingly wide stage. The eyes are stimulated. And so, often, is the mind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The Shift
Young Vic
Studio

as an impressionistic picture of three generations of women, their similarities and their differences, the play is mostly sharp and suggestive.

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Catherine Cusack: one of a top-notch cast

Angry old guitar man

Link Wray
The Garage, NJ

THE godfather of rock'n'roll guitar was angry and it showed. Link Wray had flown into London for this one-off gig and Virgin had sent his luggage somewhere else. He hit the stage with a stream of four-letter expletives and crashed into the crude, menacing vibrato of *Rumble*, his 1957 hit which inspired a generation from Jeff Beck to Pete Townshend to pick up their first guitars. So threatening was the sound that the record was banned in parts of America — quite an achievement for an instrumental.

Rock is mostly about either angst or anger and Wray is definitely in the latter camp, prowling and scowling through ever-present shades. We probably owed Richard Branson a favour, for when you are old enough to have fought in the Korean War, as

sing (he lost a lung in Korea) but that hardly matters. Even when he is tackling a Hank Williams country song, he races through a couple of verses merely as a prelude to yet another extended fuzz guitar solo.

There was one classic rock'n'roll moment when he leant into the front row and allowed the crowd to finger the fretboard of his guitar. So massive was the wall of feedback that the sound was no different from when he had himself been playing the instrument seconds earlier. Link Wray is a man who has resisted all temptations to grow old gracefully. He ended as he began, with an encore of *Rumble*. And yes, you could hear why they banned it.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Wray did, it must be hard night after night to summon up that spirit of primal danger for an audience many of whom do not even remember Vietnam.

Wray gets rediscovered every decade. His newest fans found him through the appearance of his classic guitar instrumentals in the films *Pulp Fiction* and *Desperado*. He invented many of the techniques of rock guitar. According to legend he punched a pencil hole through a speaker to create fuzz, and feedback was another accidental discovery. He cannot really

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Give chief officers full authority

Michael Howard explains the reasoning behind the Police Bill

The provisions in the Police Bill which will be debated in the Lords today have properly received a great deal of attention. But much of the debate has been based on a misunderstanding of the nature of the police operations covered by the Bill, their importance in the fight against serious crime, and the extent to which police would be inhibited in fighting it if proposals by Labour and the Liberal Democrats are accepted.

The police have been undertaking such operations for decades with considerable success and without giving rise to complaints. Over the past 30 or 40 years, the need to exploit modern surveillance techniques has grown as the threat from organised crime has developed. The police have made it clear that they cannot effectively combat the criminal gangs who engage in terrorism, major drug-trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping and so on unless they can take advantage of a range of techniques.

Up to now these operations have had no statutory authority. Administrative guidelines were issued in 1977 and strengthened in 1984. Under these guidelines, intrusive surveillance must be a last resort, when other methods have failed or are believed likely to fail. But we recognise that authorisation of these operations should be put on a statutory basis, with close and effective judicial scrutiny of the use of these techniques.

This is what the Police Bill provides. It creates the new post of surveillance commissioner, who will be a former or serving High Court judge and who will review authorisations and investigate complaints. Chief constables can now be asked to appear in court to justify their decisions, and a number have been cross-examined. The new Bill retains this means of calling chief officers to account, and adds the commissioner's scrutiny. And the commissioner will publish an annual report, in which he will identify any chief constable who has used his powers improperly.

The Bill does not relax the existing guidelines. It is simply wrong to suggest that it authorises the police to eavesdrop on the private conversations of anyone who speaks to a lawyer, journalist or doctor. Surveillance may be authorised only if it is necessary to prevent serious crime, and may be used only against those engaged in such crime.

A Times leader of January 18 suggested that whether judicial scrutiny should take place before or after the authorisations of such operations depends upon whether prior authorisation would undermine the Bill's effectiveness.

The argument depends upon a full understanding of the nature and purpose of intrusive surveillance. The investigation of serious and organised crime requires techniques such as recording conversations of criminals in public places, placing tracking devices on vehicles and sometimes entering property such as garages and warehouses, and, more rarely, residential homes.

New information may suddenly send a complex investigation in a different direction. It may be vital to the success of an investigation to track the movements of a vehicle or to

The author is the Home Secretary.

In asset management as in football, payment is by results, so teams cannot afford to lose top scorers

last week it was easy to confuse the fund management and football businesses. Perhaps the big fund managers ought to offer new contracts to their star performers that would allow transfer fees, rather than having to bombard them with guaranteed bonuses. At the moment, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, having lost Nicola Horlick in a row that might have surprised even Tottenham Hotspur, is desperately in need of a replacement striker. At least billions of pounds of funds under management may drift away unless they find a good one. What would Carol Galley, the Eric Canham of the Mercury Asset Management investment team, be worth to them? Certainly more than the £15 million Newcastle United paid for Alan Shearer.

Both Nicola Horlick and Carol Galley were trained in that noble academy of the modern city, the old S.G. Warburg. What would Siegmund Warburg, unquestionably the greatest banker in the London of the past 50 years, have made of the latest events? He would not have approved. For him banking was a private discipline. He did not seek publicity for himself, though he knew how to use the press to benefit his clients. He would have been horrified to see a highly paid manager storm across Europe to make a personal appeal in Frankfurt. He would have disliked it all the more because his own training was in traditional German high-banking, and the Deutsche Bank was one of his closest allies in the post-war world. But Siegmund Warburg's banking era has gone; he is himself long since dead; his bank has been bought by the Swiss; all that remains intact of his creation and in British hands is Mercury Asset Management, which he never foresaw growing to anything like its present eminence. There his spirit is still revered.

By Siegmund Warburg's standards, which were exacting, Nicola Horlick's fault has been the failure to control her ego. He accepted that a dramatic sense of one's own personal

Why Nicola Horlick was underpaid

was an unavoidable part of a public career; he would have allowed for it in politicians, in actors, in journalists, in barristers — though no one wants an egotistical solicitor — and in a certain kind of entrepreneur. He knew that there were business tycoons with egos like Robert Maxwell's, though he did not always choose to act for them. He did not see banking — least of all his own bank — as an arena for the public display of personality.

This was the austere tradition in which Carol Galley and Nicola Horlick were both raised, though Nicola Horlick joined Mercury Asset Management after Siegmund Warburg's time. Carol Galley has stuck by this tradition of privacy; she did not relish the publicity which fell on her during the Granada-Forte battle. Nicola Horlick, by taking her case to the press, has broken the tribal taboos.

Women are often extremely good at fund management, as these two undoubtedly are. It is now perhaps the highest-paid profession for women: their salaries and bonuses may be a multiple of those even of the top women barristers. When one considers the risks she was taking with her career, what can have induced Nicola Horlick to go public in her battle with the powers in Morgan Grenfell? After all, the public cannot force the bank to give her back her much-cherished job.

Some allowance must be made for the fact that she is a woman, not because women in business are more emotional than men, but because women working in a male environment do have to fight their corner

harder. Margaret Thatcher is an obvious example. Many men get to the top in their professions by being "good chaps" and easy for other men to get on with; no woman ever gets to the top by being a good chap. Nicola Horlick would never have held her job if she had not fought harder for it than the man who might otherwise have glided into it. Women are at best county members of the great male clubs of the City, of the House of Commons. The insider's way of achieving their ob-

jectives is not often open to them. There had also been the Peter Young affair, which cost Morgan Grenfell £200 million in compensation, and a serious loss of prestige. Rightly or wrongly, Keith Percy, who had been Nicola Horlick's immediate superior and supporter, was held partly responsible for the failure to supervise Young and was disposed of. Robert Smith, her new boss, was not so sympathetic, though he seems to have recognised at first that Mrs Horlick was a rising star. These changes make people uneasy; there was unease running through Morgan Grenfell, an unease that spread to rumours of people leaving, possibly in a group. The bank itself has

£250 million to the shareholders. For this Carol Galley receives, like Nicola Horlick, an income of £1 million or so including bonuses.

By football standards, or by ordinary business standards, these £1 million women stars are not only cheap at the price, but are absurdly underpaid. It is never safe to pay much less than a star asset is worth to the business. Either Nicola Horlick was adding a significant positive gain to the performance of Morgan Grenfell, or she should not have had her job in the first place. Apparently she had £4 billion of funds under her personal management, of the bank's total of £50 billion under management. Even if one attributes only 5 per cent of the capital value of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management to her personal contribution, that would still be £5 million. She was almost certainly worth a great deal more to the bank than they were paying her, even though they were paying her a lot. That sort of disparity always creates tensions.

In fund management most of the players can only perform as well as or rather less well than the relevant index. Such players are interchangeable and readily replaceable. There are few star players whose investment performance actually beats the competition; they regularly get the ball into the net. They are worth their weight in gold. Around their personal skills, and their ability to earn large bonuses for themselves, their teams and their bosses, very large businesses can be and have been built. These businesses are not old-fashioned banking, or even old-fashioned fund management businesses. Those film studios that tried to handle the stars of Hollywood as though they were so many junior accountants saved the perry cash, but lost the box office. Football clubs without goal-scorers lose matches. So long as Nicola Horlick's funds were performing successfully, Morgan Grenfell's job was to keep her happy. In that job it has manifestly failed.

Troubles for the victors

As well as facing the people, says Peter Riddell, the parties must face the issues

The next government will squeeze the public sector, increase the proportion of public services that are privately financed and be forced to raise taxes. I write the next government, because this will happen whoever wins the election. It has little to do with manifesto pledges. The constraints and options are already clear from the Treasury's Red Book, the economic and fiscal projections published with the Budget eight weeks ago. These figures will not only define the Cabinet's discussion of the Tory manifesto at Chequers a week today, but will this afternoon be accepted by Gordon Brown as providing the overall spending framework for the first two years of a Labour government.

That is why Labour's latest propaganda campaign about a Tory fifth term — centred upon scaring allegations about VAT on food and a rump NHS — is so irresponsible. Of course there are differences between the parties in their attitudes to the role of the State, but the Labour campaign debases political debate by ignoring the constraints that will be common to any government.

The Tories have said little so far on what they would do in a fifth term. But there is no real mystery; there hardly could be after 18 years in office. Budgetary constraints will remain tight. Many of the assumptions on public spending in the Budget were over-optimistic, as last week's report from the cross-party Treasury committee stressed. But any post-election cuts in spending and tax rises should be much less than in 1992-94. So we would be likely to see moves towards the abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes and, towards the end of the Parliament,



income tax cut to 20p, probably offsetting increases in other taxes on consumers and companies.

Much has been made of a likely rightward shift in the Tory parliamentary party. A new report, *The Conservatives after the Election*, from Rowman Public Affairs, notes that while half the Tory MPs retiring are on the Left, with just a quarter on the Right, half the candidates in vulnerable seats are on the Right and less than a quarter are on the Left. Such estimates are inevitably imprecise, not least because MPs change their views. This shift matters far more with regard to Europe than domestically, where there is broad consensus within the party. The main constraint in the current Parliament has not been the balance of the Tory party but its dwindling Commons majority. Given the perhaps heroic assumption

of a comfortable Commons majority, a re-elected Tory government would carry on with privatisation — the Royal Mail, London Underground and a host of medium-sized and smaller public bodies — and with increasing private provision of publicly financed services. Under the umbrella of the Private Finance Initiative, the Government is already planning privately developed and run hospitals within the NHS as well as GP services provided by private sector organisations, as in the current Bill on primary healthcare. On the same lines, the Government will shortly propose allowing the private sector and voluntary bodies to bid for social services now provided by local authorities. In education, there would

be more grammar schools, more selection and more testing, but also probably private-sector competition within the sector financed by the taxpayer. This would be akin to the successful American experiment of charter schools set up by teachers and parents, which operate within the state sector but are independent.

The biggest challenge would be welfare reform. Peter Lilley has already done a lot to slow the rate of growth of social security spending and has indicated likely ways ahead in various pilot schemes on helping the long-term unemployed and single mothers back to work. For instance, the private sector is now being involved and being paid by results in terms of numbers returning to work. There is a new emphasis on requiring people to take jobs or to train in return for benefit.

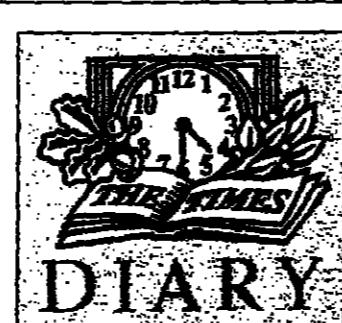
Baton charge

MUSICAL as well as physical changes are imminent for the Royal Opera House, with talk that Bernard Haitink, the highly respected musical director, will soon be stepping down. Haitink is nearing 70, and has had nearly nine years in the post, so when the Opera House closes for two years of renovations this summer, he may consider it an appropriate moment to play way for new blood. Lord Chaddington, the chairman of the Opera House board, has been urging Haitink to stay, but the maestro has yet to give his reply.

What is rattling the woodwind is the candidate looming as Haitink's likely replacement: John Eliot Gardiner, the biggest banana in the "early music" fruitbowl. He recently conducted Massenet's *Chérubin* at the Opera House, but is not felt to be popular with the orchestra. Would he, they ask, be up to conducting their Wagner and Verdi staples? His greatest asset is his knack for publicity and the fact that he has managed to sell even

the unlikeliest of recordings by the truckload.

"Nothing has been decided" was all the Opera House would say. Gardiner's strongest rivals are Danièle Gardi, the former associate musical director at the House, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Mark



Elder, a great success at the Coliseum, and the dashing maestro Valery Gergiev, currently the most popular runner, the musical director at the Kirov Opera.

Whoever it may be faces a hard job in the immediate future, keeping a notoriously fractious company together for two years on the road, far from the swag and crushed velvet of their Covent Garden home.

Kennel club

THE STRAY DOG that was adopted by the journalists who camped outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima will not be homeless when the long hostage crisis is

over. The Friends of Animals Association is determined to find a Peruvian home for the beast. "He is not just the centre of attraction at the moment. He is a living thing," says María de García, a member of the organisation, who is worried that once the crisis is resolved the animal will be forgotten.

The black-and-white terrier mix has been named "Carpa" after the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement leader Nestor Carpa Cartolini, who had led the bold attack on the Ambassador's residence on December 17 last year. Carpa has become fond of local and foreign journalists, not least because they have been feeding him vast amounts of takeaway pizza and Japanese food over the past four weeks.

As Labour and the Tories spent much of last week in frantic talks to save the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, one of the nine members of the Millennium Commission was conspicuous by his absence. He was Michael Montague, the businessman and former chairman of the English Tourist Board, who is Labour's sole representative on the commission. Throughout the increasingly desperate late

night meetings he was tapping up the sunshine in Hawaii.

Full blast

SO TAKEN was Shirley Bassey, the perennial songbird from Tigray Bay, with the acoustics in the Palace of Westminster that she decided to test them properly. Walking through the central lobby after a dinner there recently with Sir Ray Powell, MP for Ogmore, she com-



Bringing the House down

mented that the acoustics seemed to be good and — not a being shy girl — promptly belted out two numbers at the top of her voice.

"By God, she has a fine pair of lungs," marvelled one old buffer who stopped to listen.

As the end of the month approaches, those who have given up alcohol for January are anticipating the first refreshing draughts of wine. But not the iron-willed Hartlepool MP, Peter Mandelson. He is forswearing alcohol until after the general election, to keep his wits about him during this momentous time.

New ewe

WILLIE RUSHTON is naturally much missed at *The Literary Review* where he was the cover cartoonist. But his successor has already decided what he will be doing for his first magazine front. Chris Riddell, the political cartoonist, will be taking as his subject Lord Byron — whose sexual adventures are analysed in a new biography, which debates whether Byron was actually a sexual hero or a wimp.

Riddell is very partial to drawing sheep. His last book was a useful guide called *Buddhism for Sheep*. "Sheep seeking enlightenment should definitely consult this book," he advises. His next book is likely to be a guide to Feng Shui — The Chinese art of arranging interiors. Also for sheep.

"Do not consider your possessions to be yours alone" — from Riddell's *Buddhism for Sheep*

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P.H.S



THE EDUCATION VOTE

Why political campaigners mark the classroom so high

Today we publish the first of our "Ballot 97" guides to election issues. These are designed to peel away the party propaganda and analyse as scrupulously as possible the record and the promises in every area of policy. Each week until polling day, our team of *Times* writers will continue this audit, bringing the best of their expertise to bear on the claims, the gloss and the facts. By the end of the long campaign, as we promised last Friday, we hope that readers of *The Times* will be the best equipped in Britain for delivering judgment on their elected rulers.

We begin the series on page 6 today with education, likely to be one of the election campaign's bounciest political footballs. Because of its impact on the economy, education is important to every voter. But a very high proportion are also directly involved because they themselves, their children or their grandchildren are at school, college or university. When asked what issue will be very important in deciding their allegiance, voters cite education second only to health.

As a public service, education is a particularly frustrating issue for parents and grandparents. The difference in quality between the state and private sectors is so great, except at the very top end of the state sector, that many of those who can afford to send their children to private schools tend to do so. The financial impact upon them is enormous. Unlike health, where people can choose to pay the occasional sum for private treatment, education is an all or nothing service. If parents choose the private route, they commit themselves to many thousands of pounds a year for up to 14 years.

Some feel that they are doing so under duress; they would happily switch to the state sector if only it were good enough. The savings they could make would dwarf any tax cut, so the prize to any party which

managed to make state schools as good as they are in Germany could be glittering.

It is not as if the Government has not tried. The Tories can be accused of coming to education late; their first big reform Bill did not reach the statute book until 1988. But since then there has been a raft of measures designed to raise standards. From the introduction of the national curriculum, through testing, league tables and opting out, the idea has been to put pressure on schools to introduce more academic rigour.

For pupils near the top of the ability range, these reforms seem to have made a difference, though still not enough for some parents. More pupils now go to university, pass A levels and gain five or more good GCSEs than five years ago. Even allowing for degree of grade inflation, this is some achievement. The gap between the best and the rest is still, however, far too wide.

In every subject, the range of achievement between the best and least able children is greater in Britain than elsewhere. That is why issues such as homework have political potency. As our features on pages 16 and 17 illustrate, both pupils and parents are ambivalent about the practice. But homework does help to show teachers what children have grasped. And it delivers results. A study by the University of Illinois has found that pupils who had done no homework could rise from the middle of their age group to the top third by working out of school.

In a modern economy which has fewer and fewer jobs for unqualified workers any policy that enables poor performers to catch up must be worth adopting. Labour's call for compulsory homework may sound punitive and centralist. But it seems to have caught the spirit of the times. Too many parents feel that their children are not achieving their potential at state schools. To judge by the polls, the Tories have yet to convince them that their solutions are enough.

SPEAK OUT FOR BUSINESS

Labour's industrial policies must not go unchallenged

Is all the fuss made in Britain about flexible labour markets just a political diversion? Are businessmen really indifferent to minimum wages, state interference in employment conditions and the whole European "social partnership" agenda of labour regulations and government-mandated trade union powers? This will be the impression conveyed by Tony Blair tomorrow morning when he speaks at the launch of a supposedly non-partisan "manifesto for British business", signed by several prominent industrial leaders, including the chief executives of GEC, Legal & General and British Aerospace.

To the surprise of the conference participants and the mild embarrassment of its organisers, Mr Blair will be followed immediately by a previously uninvited speaker, Michael Heseltine. The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to invite himself into the lion's den and deliver a keynote rebuttal to Mr Blair's keynote speech deserves full marks.

In terms of political tactics, Mr Heseltine is obviously trying to upstage Mr Blair at a media event carefully orchestrated to convey the impression that business now stands four-square behind Labour. But Mr Heseltine's intervention should be seen as more than a short-term spoiler. It marks a recognition that Ministers will have to work harder than ever to emphasise the coherence of their policies on business, employment and economic growth. Unless the Tories make continuous efforts to raise their voices and draw attention to the successes of the industrial policies of the past 17 years, Labour's natural preference for the social chapter, the minimum wage and the corporatist economic model could go unanswered.

A good example of the challenge the Tories now face was last week's propaganda coup

for Labour, when Ford's decision to stop production at Halewood of its poorly performing Escort model was widely seen as evidence that the relative ease of hiring and firing workers in Britain was destroying jobs. This is a specious argument, which almost no serious economists or businessmen in Britain or even in Europe, would endorse. Even on the Centre-Left it is now broadly accepted that the jobs created by allowing flexible employment far outweigh the jobs lost by restraining the employer's right to manage the workforce. The jobs "saved" by companies that are forced to act against their own business interests are rarely preserved for long.

Most British businessmen understand such arguments very well, but the Tories may no longer be able to rely on them as vocal cheerleaders. Businessmen still strongly support the free-market reforms introduced by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. They see no advantages and many potential perils in joining the social chapter. They oppose minimum wages unless they are set at such low levels as to have almost no effect. But business are first and foremost interested in doing business — and that includes doing business with whichever Party is in power.

This is especially true of the leaders of large companies which depend on public orders, benefit from special tax concessions or function under close government and European regulation — precisely the sort of companies prominent in Labour's list of the good and the great. The widespread conviction that Mr Blair will probably be the next Prime Minister means that many of the natural spokesmen for pro-business, free-market policies have recently become tongue-tied. In the coming months, Mr Heseltine will have to speak even more frequently and loudly than usual.

HENRY'S HOARD

When furs and lace were more than luxuries

We should not be surprised that Henry VIII, that rumbustious and expansive radical monarch, had wardrobes full of tiaras, tennis balls and toothpicks. Patient list-makers led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics are on the brink of publishing the inventory of Henry's household at the time of his death; 100,000 items right down to the incomplete chess set which has been a staple item in every English home since that era. But the opulence and extent of the possessions need not strike us as at all odd.

Two glances at contemporary fashion will set Henry's hoard in perspective. If a global television audience is fascinated by Ruby Wax's investigation into the contents of the Duchess of York's fridge, we should remember that preoccupation with royal trinkets has a long pedigree. A quick look at last week's newspapers also displays an enduring royal habit of taking care of the image. Diana, Princess of Wales, with an experienced feel for the media, ensured that every photograph which appeared of her during her trip to Angola showed her in working clothes, equipped with pen, serious expression or folders of documents. The symbols conveyed a message: this person means business.

Outward signs of grandeur, power and wealth mattered even more to Henry VIII. His spin-doctors might have claimed the

divine right of kings, but there were foreign powers, fractious nobles and the grandees of the Church to massage all the same. With no newspapers and no television, a sovereign's political image was boosted or damaged by his appearance and immediate surroundings. In an age when power and authority could be conveyed only by word of mouth, the trappings of office or royalty were equipment essential to making the magic work.

Cardinal Wolsey, as he commuted to work from one end of Hampton Court Palace to the other, was preceded as he walked by others who solemnly carried the Great Seal of England, his cardinal's hat, a pair of silver crosses and two silver pillars.

Kings like Henry fluffed up their royal plummage to achieve carefully targeted diplomatic ends. The meeting with Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold was one of the most sumptuous picture opportunities of its age. Five thousand people attended Henry and his Queen; six thousand built tents and pavilions on a scale which would put the Millennium Commission to shame. But this conspicuous consumption had a point to make Spain: worry that it might soon face an Anglo-French alliance. It worked. As a royal visit or a deftly timed soundbite may be part modern statecraft, so jewellery, furs and lace were not mere luxuries to Tudor kings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Paying a just price for higher fees in the civil courts

From Mr Francis Macleod Matthews

Sir, It was disappointing to see such a strident attack by Sir Richard Scott on the civil court fee increases (report, January 14). These increases were introduced, at least partly, at the suggestion of the Bar and the Law Society, through the Heilbrun committee appointed in 1992 to look at ways in which civil justice could be improved.

It is unlikely that these groups traditionally seen as self-interested, would have made a proposal that would deny access to justice to significant numbers of their clients. In fact there are strong arguments in favour of a system under which the user pays for the administrative cost of the civil courts.

Under the English system the unsuccessful party already bears the costs of the other party to the litigation. This has long been thought fair because it is the unsuccessful party who caused them to be incurred. Under the new system, court fees will be recoverable from the unsuccessful party, so this is at most a modest extension of the same principle. More over, in contested cases, the court fees pale into insignificance by comparison with lawyers' costs.

At present, irrespective of their means or the merits of their arguments, litigants are subsidised by taxpayers: they do not pay the full cost of the court administration. If litigation costs are to be subsidised, it is only right that the subsidy should be targeted at those who lack means and

whose cases appear to have merit. Legal aid will bear court costs where those criteria are met.

Yours etc,
FRANCIS MACLEOD
MATTHEWS,
12 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
January 14.

From Mr A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Sir Richard Scott, a prominent judge and head of the civil justice system, protests over higher court fees, saying: "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive." But court fees are insignificant, in size and in their effect on access to justice, compared with lawyers' fees.

Lawyers charge their clients by the hour, without limit and regardless of the outcome of the case. As a result the cost of litigation in England is exorbitant, disproportionate and unpredictable. A survey has revealed that in nearly a third of the cases with a value of less than £12,500 the cost to one party alone is between £10,000 and £20,000; costs in excess of £20,000 were noted in nearly a further tenth of the sample.

We have reached, therefore, the situation where only either the very rich or that shrinking proportion of the poor which the State can still afford to support with legal aid have access to justice.

For the rest of us, taking our griev-

ances to court is simply out of reach. Curiously, judges hardly ever protest about this much more serious constraint on access to justice.

1, for one, would not much mind paying the extra £100 in court fees, to which Sir Richard objects, if, by exerting greater control over litigation, the judge could limit the amount of inglorious work done by lawyers and reduce by a few thousand my liability to the Lord Chancellor's strategy.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN
(Fellow in Law,
University College, Oxford,
January 14.

From Mr Bruce Cairns

Sir, I foresee another serious consequence of the rises in court fees. Where a civil litigant is legally aided, the court fees are paid by the Legal Aid Fund. This will therefore soon be a significant increase in legal aid expenditure as a direct result of the Lord Chancellor's action.

Can we assume that this will be brought to the attention of the public the next time he (or the next Lord Chancellor) bemoans the high cost of providing legal aid?

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE CAIRNS,
Morton Fisher (solicitors),
Bank House,
12-13 The Foregate, Worcester.
January 14.

Doctors and Police Bill

From the Chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, BMA, and others

Sir, The medical profession supports the fight against serious crime. But the Police Bill (letters, January 8, 10, 14, 18) gives the police statutory powers to break into medical premises, install listening devices and intercept and monitor telephone conversations between doctors and their patients.

Such infringements of the confidential relationship between doctors and their patients could be justified only in the aid of the cash-strapped NHS. The granting of trust status enabled us to take matters into our own hands and build a private wing, which last year contributed £1 million in extra income to help care for NHS patients.

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Yours faithfully,
IAN G. BOGLE,
Chairman, General Medical
Services Committee, BMA,
NORMAN BROWSE
(Chairman, Joint Consultants Committee),
DONALD IRVINE
(President, General Medical Council),
JAMES N. JOHNSON
(Chairman, Central Consultants and
Specialists Committee, BMA),
A. W. MACARA
(Chairman of Council, BMA),
NAREN PATEL
(Chairman, Academy of Royal Colleges),
KEITH PETERS
(Chairman, Council of Deans of UK
Medical Schools and Faculties),
LESLIE TURNBERG
(Chairman, Specialist Training Authority),
British Medical Association,
BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1.
January 17.

Lyceum discovery

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, In your coverage of the latest archaeological discovery in Athens (reports and leading article, January 16), Aristotle's Lyceum is described as "this first university" and "the forerunner of the modern university" which "started the great tradition of a community of scholars, standing on the shoulders of their predecessors and carrying on the work of their great predecessor".

Such an honour — if that is what it is — surely belongs to Plato's Academy, which was founded fifty years earlier and which Aristotle himself attended for twenty years before founding his own university.

Such an honour — if that is what it is — surely belongs to Plato's Academy, which was founded fifty years earlier and which Aristotle himself attended for twenty years before founding his own university.

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
January 16.

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The letters you published on January 16 criticising Labour local government give a rather distorted view of reality. The fact is that many of the innovations which the Government has adopted were first tried out in Labour authorities.

Baseline assessment and targets have been working successfully in Birmingham for several years. Labour authorities like Croydon and Hammersmith and Fulham have acted promptly to turn failing schools around. Camden gets far better exam results in London than the Tory flagships of Wandsworth and Westminster. Authorities such as Newcastle and Lewisham are leading the way in improving inner-city schools.

The Government has removed many local education authority powers to act, yet then accuses them of failing to do so. However, there are some

Expanding cost of private healthcare

From the Chief Executive of Frimley Park Hospital

Sir, William Rees-Mogg suggests ("Closing the health and education gaps", January 13) that expansion of private healthcare must depend on governments.

The management of this hospital realised some years ago that private healthcare could come directly to the aid of the cash-strapped NHS. The granting of trust status enabled us to take matters into our own hands and build a private wing, which last year contributed £1 million in extra income to help care for NHS patients.

Such an infringement of the confidential relationship between doctors and their patients could be justified only in the aid of the cash-strapped NHS. The granting of trust status enabled us to take matters into our own hands and build a private wing, which last year contributed £1 million in extra income to help care for NHS patients.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MORRIS,
Chief Executive,
Frimley Park Hospital,
Frimley Road,
Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.

January 15.

It is time there was proper recognition that without the safety net of the NHS the cost of private healthcare will have to be a great deal higher.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MORRIS,
Chief Executive,
Frimley Park Hospital,
Frimley Road,
Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.
January 15.

From the Chief Executive of the Independent Healthcare Association

Sir, I strongly agree with William Rees-Mogg's view that greater use of private expertise and finance is needed across UK healthcare. The UK's independent health and social care sector is the only viable way forward for politicians of the Left and Right. After all, to push up taxes yet

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM FELLOWES
(Chief Executive,
St Peter's Hospice,
St Agnes Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.
January 15.

From the Chairman of the UK Director of Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal

Sir, Bravo, Princess Diana! As an organisation that has the depressingly sad task of picking up the pieces by making artificial legs for Afghan war-wounded, we applaud her initiative (letter, January 17). Since 1980 we have supplied more than 7,000 artificial legs to Afghan men, women and children — nearly all of them mine victims.

Anything that anybody can do to curb the terrible damage caused by mines is enormously worthwhile.

The Princess visited our clinic in Peshawar in September 1991. She saw children who had both legs blown off.

She knows what she is talking about.

Yours faithfully,
SANDY GALL (Chairman),
ELEANOR GALL (UK Director),
Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal,
PO Box 145, Tonbridge, Kent.

January 17.

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, In the light of a recent radio interview ("Pop group banned over 'Ecstasy is safe' claim", report, January 17) should we now consider making the act of promoting the illegal use of drugs a punishable offence?

Yours sincerely,

MAURICE WEBB,
Smiddy House, Auchencrie,
Eyemouth, Berwickshire.

January 17.

From Mr Andrew Newton

Sir, The threat by the NUT to penalise children for attending private nursery schools (report, January 13) bodes ill for any future Labour government promising to introduce new union-free policies. It seems even worse than the direct action taken by unions during the Seventies, in that innocent children are being threatened for their parents' legal decision.

This attempt at bullying by a national union is evidence of the dangers of a monopoly even in the provision of education, and exemplifies the need to offer parents a choice of schools and teachers.

Yours faithfully,

AND



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 18: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Rugby Match between Scotland and Wales at Murrayfield, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, a Mr Eric Milligan. The Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 19: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Carlisle preached the Sermon.
Mr M. D. Evison (Headteacher of St George's Church of England School, Dersingham) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented a Bible to Master Thomas Wheeler for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

Birthdays today

Dr Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut. 62: Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation architect. 55: Mr Tom Baker, actor. 61: Mr Justice Chadwick. 50: Air Marshal Sir David Cousins. 55: Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player. 58: the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral. 68: Lord Ewing of Kirkford. 60: Sir David Fell, civil servant. 54: The Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford. 79: Miss Liza Goddard, actress. 47: Lord Hanson. 75: the Marquess of Headfort. 65: Major Dick Hern, racehorse trainer. 76: Mr J.K. Ind, former Headmaster.

Dover College, 62: Air Vice-Marshal the Ven B.H. Lucas, former Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF. 51: Mr David Lynch, film producer. 51: Commandant Vonda McBride, former director, WRNS. 76: Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator. 52: Mr Max Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst prison. 53: Dr Jessica Rawson, FBA, Warden, Merton College, Oxford. 54: Mr Natans Sharansky, Soviet dissident. 49: Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer. 58: Mr Nigel Williams, novelist. 49: Mr John Witherow, Editor, *The Sunday Times*. 45.

Service luncheon

Hawke Term, January 1937

Members of the Hawke term, the last of the term system, who joined the Royal Naval College Dartmouth on January 20, 1937, marked their 60th anniversary at a luncheon held yesterday at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Rear-Admiral H.W.E. Holling pre-

Funeral service

The Venerable Inayat Rumalshah

The funeral service for the Venerable Inayat Rumalshah, former Archdeacon of Karachi and father of Bishop Mano Rumalshah, took place on Saturday, January 18, 1997, at St Mark's Church, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Nature notes

IN THE cold, damp woods, pheasants stalk across the dead leaves and fly up with loud trumpeting cries when disturbed, their long tails streaming and twisting behind them. Woodcocks lie low where the brambles are still green, and burst up wildly through the prickles when a dog sniffs them out, then fly away very fast through the trees.

Jays hop about heavily, searching for acorns and beetles in the leaf mould; occasionally they screech loudly, but more often they fly away shyly and silently, and all that is seen of them is a white rump disappearing into the bushes.

There is a burst of song now and then from coal tits and great tits in the treetops. Robins are singing steadily in hawthorn trees and hedges, but wren song has diminished in the undergrowth since the cold spell.

At night, tawny owls are beginning to hoot regularly



The tawny owl

again: they are early nesters, sometimes even starting in February if food supplies for the young are plentiful.

There are new carpets of ground ivy leaves in the woodland glades: they are heart-shaped, and release a sweet smell when crushed. Ground ivy is quite unrelated to the evergreen ivy that grows on trees: in the spring it will have luminous blue flowers.

D.J.M.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000



The view from the ruins of St Edmunds Abbey towards the proposed cathedral of St Edmundsbury, with tower

Hope of new cathedral lends spiritual air to the millennium

By MATT GEORGE

AS THE first millennium of cathedral building draws to an end, Suffolk is trying to revive the tradition by finishing England's only incomplete cathedral.

Whether the fervent prayers of church leaders and laity will be successful depends on a decision by the Millennium Commission this month on the cathedral's application for a bequest of £2.5 million. The project, which will cost £5 million, will crown the cathedral with a central tower.

The completion of St Edmundsbury, designated a cathedral this century, has been hampered by two world wars, controversy over whether the architect deserved a tower or a spire, and spiralling costs. The cathedral has its ecclesiastical origins in the town of Bury St Edmunds, a centre of national and European pilgrimage from the Middle

Ages and the cradle of Magna Carta. From the ruins of the town's 7th-century St Edmund's Abbey, a parish church grew into a cathedral in 1194.

In recent months church leaders, laity, the borough council and national heritage and preservation societies have agreed that a tower would be most in keeping with the heritage of Suffolk, littered with Norman-towered churches. It will also help to revive the dying craft of masonry.

"It is very fitting that the last cathedral in the country awaiting completion should be finished for the millennium," the Very Rev James Atwell, Provost of St Edmundsbury, said. The commission, he added, had a unique opportunity to bequeath an enduring imprint on the spiritual landscape of the country.

Sue Stebbing, a parishioner whose sons are also cathedral choristers, said: "It is a national shame that cathedral

building is dying in our country, yet we see other beliefs building pillars to their faiths, such as the stunning Hindu temple in Neasden, northwest London."

Mr Atwell, who has worked determinedly to canvass support for the project, said: "In commemorating the millennium, we have to leave something spiritual behind. In 1,000 years' time, the cathedral and its tower will have a better chance of succeeding. It would be a tragedy to abandon its completion."

Since work began on rebuilding the cathedral after the Second World War, the extension of the interior has moved close to fulfilling the ideals of Stephen Dykes Bower, the late Church of England architect and Gothic revivalist. His *baldaquino* at the east end of St Paul's Cathedral, with its gilded angels and risen Christ, is virtually indistinguishable from the intentions of Sir Christopher Wren.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, Hanover, 1707; Wolfe Tone, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1763; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Lyons, 1775; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, Holland, 1844; Farsøe, Denmark, 1873; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Austria, 1910; Roy Plomley, creator of *Desert Island Discs*, Kingston upon Thames, 1940.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Thersford, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, London, 1857; Jean Françoise Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and

writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Charles Doughty, explorer in Arabia, Sissinghurst, Kent, 1926; Sargi V, reigning 1910-36, Sargi, 1936; Robinson Jeffers, poet, Carmel, California, 1962; Edmund Blunden, poet and critic, Long Melford, Suffolk, 1974; Johnny Weissmuller, Olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1984.

The first assembly of The Commons, 1265.

Hong Kong was ceded to Britain from China, 1841.

The Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition led by Sir Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole, 1958.

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The Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition led by Sir Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole, 1958.

Latest wills

Doris Evelyn Braybrooks, Spalding, shot left £1,162,772 net. She left £1,000 to Hambleton County Cricket Club; £100 each to Inner Wheel, Aldershot, W.N.C.A.P., Aldershot, and Cuckoo Club; Aldershot, Rotary Club; Aldershot and District Hospital; Aldershot National Trust; Multiple Sclerosis Society; Queen Alexandra Hospital, Aldershot; The Royal National Institute for the Blind; Historic Churches Preservation Trust; Aldershot and District Memorial Hospice; and Hampshire Children's Hospice.

Mr P.B.L. Rees and Miss S.K. Earley

The engagement is announced between Bryan, son of Craig and Rosalind Rees, of Brooklands Park, Hertfordshire, and Samantha, daughter of Michael and Veronique Estrey, of Cuffley, Hertfordshire. The marriage will take place on Saturday, September 20, in St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Northaw.

Memorial service

Mr George Frederic Rocke

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr George Frederic Rocke, former Chairman of the Governors of Oak Hill Theological College, north London; Chairman of the Kingham Hill Trust and a member of the board of the Trustees of the Capernwray Missionary Fellowship, was held on Saturday in the chapel at the college. The Rev Rupert Charnock officiated.

Mr P.B.L. Rees and Miss S.K. Earley

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Lloyds TSB Foundations

On January 1, 1997, the four TSB Foundations became the Lloyds TSB Foundations.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales, Chairman, the Duke of Westminster; Director General, Mrs Kathleen Duncan.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, Chairman, Dame Mary Corson; Chief Executive, Andrew Muirhead.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Northern Ireland, Chairman, James Grew; Secretary, Mervyn Bishop.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for the Channel Islands, Chairman, Rodney Picot; Administrator, David Beagard.

Anthony C. Everett

A celebration of the life of Anthony Charles Everett, LVO, OBE, DL, will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, on January 28, at noon. All welcome. Inquiries to Julie Bailey 0171-543 3362.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

BIRTHS

DEATHS

OBITUARIES

NEVILLE CRUMP

Neville Crump, racing trainer. Died on January 18 aged 86. He was born on December 27, 1910.

A bluff, outspoken trainer of the old school, with a rumbustious, outsize personality, Neville Crump enjoyed a career of immense success spanning more than half a century. He saddled no fewer than ten winners of various Nationals — three at Aintree, five Scottish and two Welsh.

Crump forged his reputation in the Yorkshire racing centre of Middleham, where, over a period of four decades, he became its undisputed *grand seigneur*, while remaining, at the same time, an evergreen *enfant terrible*. Riding out to early exercise, for instance, he was much given to rousing slumbering inhabitants with loud and unmissable song, bellowed comments on idleness, or even a blast on the hunting horn.

He first took out a licence in 1937, but it was not until 1948 that his career took the turn which was to lead to fame and great repute. The catalyst for this sudden change was the nine-year-old mare, Sheila's Cottage. Only half-bred, headstrong and with a tendency to bite and kick, she had passed the post in the 1947 Grand National ahead of everything else — but without a rider. She next ran in the Scottish National, then held at Bogside on the Ayrshire coast.

There she looked like winning. But her rider, Arthur Thompson, later blamed himself for driving her too hard into the downhill fence three from home. She lost her footing, unseated him, then promptly galloped into the sea, swam an inlet, and was finally retrieved by Crump from the police station at midnight.

The next year, Sheila's Cottage was sold to John Proctor, who combined deep-sea fishing interests in Grimsby with keeping the Lord Nelson public house in the nearby Lincolnshire town of Brigg. He paid £3,500 for the mare. But that sum was quickly recouped when, in the 1948 Grand National, she was driven past first of the Dandies on the run-in and won with a length to spare at the generous odds of 50-1.

After that life was transformed for Crump. It was interesting to note, too, that Sheila's Cottage seemed to possess several of the same characteristics as her trainer — among them an eccentricity, an almost impetuous resolution and a reckless honesty. If Crump did not actually bite, many an unsaddling enclosure as well as the



Middleham gallops would respond to the bark of his strictures.

Before the turning point in his life, Crump had, at best, a half-dozen horses in his yard. Within a few months he had thirty and a new yard had to be built. In the subsequent 15 National Hunt seasons, Crump appeared ten times among the top six in the trainers' list — and was first twice.

Neville Franklin Crump was born near Croydon, the son of Charles Crump, who was a superb horseman and later master of foxhounds. He had returned to England after ranching in Australia to marry and retrieve his family fortunes by manufacturing cheese in the West Country. Crump was in the saddle at an early age and had a length to spare at the generous odds of 50-1.

After that life was transformed for Crump. It was interesting to note, too, that Sheila's Cottage seemed to possess several of the same characteristics as her trainer — among them an eccentricity, an almost impetuous resolution and a reckless honesty. If Crump did not actually bite, many an unsaddling enclosure as well as the

could tell one anywhere, but you could not tell him much.

Oxford also bestowed other gifts on Crump. He joined the OU Cavalry Squadron, an experience which was invaluable when, on going down, he took a commission in Winston Churchill's old regiment, the 4th Hussars, and began to make a name for himself as a rider in point-to-points. But his Regular Army career was relatively brief because he strongly held to the notion that cavalry should be primarily concerned with horses, not tanks.

Resigning from the Army in 1935 he went as assistant, paying a premium for the privilege, to Sonny Hall at Russley Park, near Swindon. Crump then took out a trainer's licence and, at the end of 1937, moved to Upavon on Salisbury Plain. Despite having only a few horses, he had early success, one of the riders he employed being his exact contemporary, and eventually parallel giant of the National Hunt training scene, Fulke Walwyn. In fact, Walwyn's final winner, before he was forced to retire from the saddle through injury, was for Neville Crump, and a lasting

friendship between the two dated from those days.

In 1939 was brought a temporary halt to Crump's training activities. He was recalled into the North Somerset Yeomanry who were dispatched to Palestine. On their conversion into signals unit, however, Crump returned to the UK and in 1941 was ironically in the light of his views put in charge of tank training at Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Here, he grew to love the North of England. By the time the war was over, he had resumed training on a small scale and shortly afterwards moved to Middleham and found an invaluable, talented and loyal ally in the Irish-born rider, Arthur Thompson, himself a former Desert Rat and prisoner of war.

The year after the crucial victory of Sheila's Cottage at Aintree, Crump sent out the first of his five Scottish National winners. This was the brave little horse Wot No Sun, owned by Captain Tom Wilson. Although never successful in the *Grand National* itself, he was, nevertheless, runner-up to the great Freebooter in 1950, and third to his stable-companion Teal, two years later.

Teal, second of Crump's Grand National triumphs, was another former point-to-point horse, but one who was on offer for sale as a very young horse for only £5 in his native Tipperary. Eventually a brilliant jumper, Teal was bought for £5,000 by the builder, Harry Lane, and when he won narrowly at Aintree in 1952, after a long tussle with Dorothy Page's Legal Joy, he landed an enormous six-figure gamble for his owner.

Teal and Wot No Sun apart, Crump had a further runner in the stable: Skryeholme, ridden by Dick Francis. Skryeholme fell, but the previous season had won the Welsh National at Chepstow.

Crump's third and final Grand National victory came in 1960 with Merryman II in the first televised coverage of the big race and the last over its old-style formidable fences before they were modified. Merryman II was yet another ex-point-to-pointer, owned by Winifred Wallace. Winner of the Fonthill's Chase over a circuit of the National course the previous season, it was rated by Crump the best Liverpool horse he ever trained. In 1959 he had won for his trainer a second Scottish National. At Aintree, the fact that he started as the 13/2 favourite, and easily justified the confidence by 15 lengths, was some indication of the

public's faith in Crump's ability, for the horse's preparation had been badly interrupted.

Crump's success was not, of course, confined to the various Nationals. He saddled three winners of the Whitbread Gold Cup — Much Obliged, Hockwink and Dormant — while in 1962 he was responsible for the first two in the Hennessy Gold Cup. Lord Joicey's Springbok beating his stable-companion Rough Tweed. Among other popular Crump horses were the front-running Shining Gold, Arcurus, Chesapeake Bay, Whispering Grace, Ice Plant, Goosander, and Ballet Lord. The trainer also showed his *mastery* on the Flat: his winning hurdler Keepaway (the strange name is a dominoes term) also broke the five-furlong record at Thirsk, while Sporting Statue topped the Northern Free Handicap.

Although the peak of his career had been reached by the late Sixties, the stable continued to send out winners, and Crump was 72 years old when, in 1983, Carlton became his fifth Scottish National winner. Only three years before that he had taken the race with Salkeld, and, in that same season, the Welsh National for a second time with Narvik.

Crump retired in 1989, maintaining to the last a *steadfast contempt* both for humbug and double-dealing. His robustly Chaucerian sense of humour was matched by a combustible turn of phrase whose directness was a mask for a kind heart. In technical terms, his immense success as a trainer was rooted in meticulous attention to detail, unfailingly running a horse on its merits and, above all, an uncanny understanding of horses. He was a great believer in the use of the loose school for teaching horses to jump and giving them confidence. If a horse fell, he saw it as a failure on his part.

A further uncompromising characteristic was his refusal to train for bookmakers; and if an owner suggested a horse should not run an honest race, that horse was dispatched forthwith from Warwick House. In addition, Crump was well served by a staff and by riders, notably Arthur Thompson, Gerry Scott, and Pat Buckley, the loyalty of all of whom he unstintingly reciprocated.

In 1957 Neville Crump married Sylvia Diana ("Brownie") Bradley. She predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah, whose son Crump had hoped might succeed him at Warwick House. This, sadly, proved not to be feasible.

STANLEY HYLAND



variety of jobs, and studied part-time at Birkbeck College, where he took an arts degree. He then joined the staff of the House of Commons, working for several years in its library. He began his BBC career with the World Service at Bush House but soon transferred to television in the old Talks Department at Lime Grove, where he came under the eye of the formidable Grace Wyndham Goldie. He was the producer of *Bucknell's House* — an unlikely production from the intellectually arrogant Talks Department. This was the first television programme to tap the large market of DIY viewers. A house was purchased by the BBC and refurbished week-by-week by the presenter, Barry Bucknell.

Hyland rose to become chief assistant in the BBC's Current Affairs Department, by which time he was specialising in political programmes. Wilson and Hyland formed a mutual attachment through their close association — though in the end this probably did not help Hyland's progress upwards within the corporation. He produced almost all of Wilson's key broadcasts, from his 1964 last election appeal through the "pound in your pocket" devaluation broadcast in 1967 and continuing until Hyland left the BBC to found his own firm.

Somewhat coyly calling it HyVision, he started with a number of useful contracts, including the police and although he eventually ceased to head the firm he remained a consultant for many years.

His life changed tragically in 1994 when a car he was driving was involved in an accident which resulted in his wife being killed and Hyland himself suffering severe injuries. He recovered sufficiently to retire to Bromley, near one of his sons, and only last year managed to pay a last visit to the House of Commons which had dominated his life for so long. He is survived by his two sons.

PETER DORMER

Peter Dormer, writer on art and design, died of cancer on December 24 aged 47. He was born on January 1, 1949.



FOR nearly twenty years, in a provocative series of exhibitions, lectures and publications, Peter Dormer worked at breaking down the barriers between the various arts, and between the arts and other disciplines. He earned a reputation as an idiosyncratic and combative critic who helped to pioneer public understanding of contemporary crafts. His published studies, including *The New Jewellery* (1985), *The New Ceramics* (1986) and *The Meanings of Modern Design* (1990), became standard works.

Peter Andrew Dormer was born in Fakenham, Norfolk. From 1955 onwards the family home was on a skimpily designed new council estate in Cambridge. Nonetheless, it was at this time that Dormer first recognised the potential of modern design.

He studied painting at Bath Academy of Art and in Manchester, before going on to read philosophy at Bristol University, developing there a passion for logic, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. This was followed by a time working in local government and, if his ability to see both sides of a question hampered decision-making, he honed his already sharp debating skills along with the political awareness which was to characterise his work.

In 1978 Dormer began to write for *Art Monthly* magazine, contributing a regular and typically polemical column. By the early 1980s he decided to turn to writing full-time. He was assistant editor of the Crafts Council magazine.

He is survived by his wife Jane, whom he married in 1974 and who cared for him devotedly throughout his long fight against cancer. There were no children.

SIR JOHN MAY



Sir John May, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on January 15 aged 73. He was born on June 28, 1923.

IN 1989, aged 66, John May took early retirement from the Court of Appeal in order to spend more time with his family at their Dorset home. But release from a heavy workload was not to last long. Within 12 months he had been snared up by the Home Office to conduct in-depth inquiries into two of the more controversial cases of recent times: those of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven.

His humanity and integrity were well proven. Ten years earlier, while still a High Court judge, he had been chosen by James Callaghan's Labour Government to lead a far-reaching investigation into the prison service. The result was a seminal report which urged the closure of insanitary old jails and the building of new ones. To help to prevent overcrowding in Britain's prisons, it also called for a reduction in jail sentences for the mentally and socially disabled and for those convicted of only minor offences. With the same end in view, it proposed an extension to the parole and remission system. Finally, May and his committee recommended a new, more rigorous, scheme for prison inspections, to be led by a fiercely independent chief inspector.

With a distinguished legal career also behind him, May was immediately in the frame when, in 1989, the Home Office needed someone to investigate the saga of the so-called Guildford Four. The Four had been given life sentences in 1975 after the IRA pub bombings in Guildford and Woolwich of the previous year. Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1993, however, following a long campaign to prove their innocence.

A complication which delayed May's inquiry was the trial — and subsequent acquittal — of three former policemen, charged with fabricating evidence. As it was, May's final report in 1993 acknowledged that after so many years it was impossible to establish the whole truth behind the story. But he supported the Court of Appeal's decision to quash the convictions and he asked questions of various bodies including the Attorney-General's department and the Home Office.

While he could not identify those responsible, his main concern was to try to ensure that such miscarriages of justice did not recur. The establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission was among the indirect results of his inquiry. The Maguire Seven had been convicted in 1970 of allegedly running an IRA "bomb factory" in Kilburn, north London. They had served their sentences, and one of them had died in prison still protesting his innocence.

May, who was involved in both this and the Guildford Four inquiry at the same time, brought out his final report in 1992 and was no less severe in 1992 than he was later to sound in his strictures on the

Guidford case. He was critical of the Maguire trial judge, Lord Donaldson of Lymington, of government scientists who had given evidence and of those other judges who had first turned down the subsequent appeals. He also accused the press of creating a climate of guilt before the trial had begun by referring to the house involved as a "bomb factory". May concluded that the seven defendants had been the victims of a "serious miscarriage of justice".

May's own background was somewhat unusual for a judge. Born in Japan as John Douglas May, he was the son of a Shanghai-based British businessman. He won a scholarship to Clifton College where he became head boy — and was to be told of his father's early death just as he was about to sit his Higher School Certificate (the precursor of A levels). He was later to learn that his mother and aunt had been interned by the Japanese in a concentration camp in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, he won another scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he subsequently took a double first in maths and physics before being swept up by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he specialised in radar and radio and at

the Royal Melling, Vicar, Seamer w East Aycliffe: to be Priest-in-charge. St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green (London).

The Rev John Leonard, Vicar, St Theodore of Canterbury, Leicester (Leicester); to cease as Priest-in-charge, St John the Evangelist, Barrow (Carlisle).

The Rev Leslie Lawrence, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Moulsworth; to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green (London).

The Rev John Leonard, Vicar, St Theodore of Canterbury, Leicester (Leicester); to be Priest-in-charge, Burnby, Loughborough, Nuneaton and Warton, and Shipton w Hayton (York).

The Rev Peter Midwood, Vicar, Swaledale and Fellowship of Vocation Chaplain for Richmond archdeaconry; to be also Rural Dean of Richmond (Ripon).

The Rev George Liddle, Priest-in-charge, Evenwood; to be Vicar, Evenwood (Durham).

The Rev Colin Johnson; to be Canon Emeritus of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev Michelle Lockhart, part-time Assistant Chaplain,

ODEON CINEMA

THE BLUE LAMP

It is not only foreigners who find the English policeman *wonderful*, and, in composing this tribute to him, the Ealing Studios are giving conscious expression to a general sentiment.

The tribute is a handsome one, and the only pity is that there is not a little more genuine realism in the phrasing. Of the kind of realism that concentrates on getting details right there is plenty, and it is easy to believe that Scotland Yard co-operated in the making of the film, but when it comes to the drawing of character, the director's hand fails him and he falls back on presenting types and the kind of dialogue that goes with them.

The police station and the routine that goes on there, the infinite care over trivialities, the scientific aids in the prevention and detection of crime, the work of the police cars and of the man on the beat, all these find their true reflection on the screen; when the

ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1950

Jack Warner, as PC Dixon, your friendly local British bobby, was shot by Dirk Bogarde, as a new type of young delinquent in reckless mood. The film was said to have given a fillip to police recruitment.

camera shifts to the persons of Police-constable Dixon and Police-constable Mitchell there is no longer the certainty of reality accurately observed and accurately presented. There is an indefinable feel of the theatrical backdrop behind their words and actions; Mr Jack Warner and Mr Jimmy Handley do all that can be done, but the sense that the policemen they are acting are not policemen as they really are but policemen as an indulgent tradition has chosen to think they are will not be

banished. The point is important, important in this particular context and as symptomatic of the failure of British films lately to get to sufficiently close and uncompromising grips with their subjects, but for most it will be enough that *The Blue Lamp* tells a story excitingly and gives admirable documentary illustrations of the way the police force goes into action against the criminals.

Mr Dirk Bogarde, as a representative of the new type of criminal, the reckless youth with a kink in his mind, gives an admirable performance, and Miss Peggy Evans, as his adolescent accomplice, is right in her belligerence and hysteria. Towards the end some hard-working, tax-paying members of the audience may feel a little aggrieved by the film's insistence that bookmakers and tic-tac men at greyhound-racing meetings are an example to every one and pillars of society.

Perhaps the film does not really mean it and, anyway, it manages the closing scenes at the White City stadium with immense dramatic verve.

NEWS

Brown aims to freeze spending

■ Gordon Brown will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour Government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the last Budget... Page 1, 20

Hate group targets sports stars

■ British sports stars Sharron Davies and Frank Bruno are believed to be among the targets of a letter-bomb campaign by the right-wing group Combat 18. Other athletes in mixed-race relationships are also feared to be on a hit-list... Pages 1, 4

Carey's retreat

After 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for a two-month sabbatical... Page 1

Kohl challenged

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate... Page 2

Tory hit squads

Tory election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards... Pages 2, 6, 21

Vicar snubbed

A group of parishioners in Ropley, near Winchester, who are boycotting their village church were celebrating after their first rival prayer meeting proved more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar... Page 3

Lord of Books

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by 25,000 voters... Page 4

Arresting sermon on high

■ An Episcopalian priest in Brooklyn has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his Sunday sermon. The Rev Canon Chester LaRue, 54, said he had first used the drug to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit. "Holy goodness," said a parishioner. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes"... Page 11

Clinton's message

At his inauguration today, President Clinton will use his speech to assert that Government has a central role in improving people's lives... Page 11

Hours of darkness

1 Men put flagging energy into this signal achievement (9).
2 A hunter arranged to expose fox thus (7).
3 Become angry and destroy preliminary sketch (3,2).
5 Standard support required by runners-up (9).
6 High-flyer's harmless piece of mischief (4).
7 Half of them plead for a ruler (7).
8 Shrub once belonging to you and me (5).
9 Trip south from head of river (4).
14 Peacekeepers turning offensive (10).
16 Docker giving fellow notes before me (9).
18 Big guns indisposed to be seen in the bloody Tube (9).
20 Serving American in pub is sensible (7).
22 Way in which new dictionary covered "square dance" (7).
23 Close relative with fruit (5).
25 Row made by class (4).
26 One may have a shock, attacked with its teeth (4).

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TEE-OFF TIME / FOR THE NEXT GENERATION
The search for future champions starts with the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour PAGE 37

FEELING THE HEAT
Michael Henderson sees a day of upsets at the Australian Open tennis PAGE 27

SUNDAY BEST
Giving women's rugby a try Sport for All PAGE 39

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP
Rob Andrew offers praise for Wales but little salve for the footsore Irish after the opening skirmishes

PLUS the problems of England's selection PAGES 34, 35

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

SECOND-HALF GOALS PUT ARSENAL BACK ON THE TOP



Southall dives valiantly but is powerless to prevent Merson from sliding in Arsenal's third goal in their victory over Everton at Highbury yesterday. Photograph: Stuart Atkins

Stylish Bergkamp signals red alert

Arsenal 3
Everton 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

RED, or perhaps rouge, is becoming the dominant colour of the FA Carling Premiership. This weekend, after so much inconsistency, Liverpool, Manchester United and now Arsenal have shown their power, their reserves, their goalscoring potential and occupied positions, one, two and three. It begins to look like a clean break from the field.

Arsenal, scoring three times in 13 minutes early in the second half, identical to Liverpool against Aston Villa the previous day, must accept that their win yesterday, as polished as it was, owed plenty to the great good fortune of an Everton goal — a good goal — being unjustly ruled offside before half-time.

It happened after 31 minutes.

Ferguson, fitful though he was, had attempted an overhead kick but, when the ball slithered down off his boot, Barmby, so quick of mind and body, stole two yards forward and, with his own acrobatics, swivelled to hook the ball cleanly and powerfully into the net. To be fair, it did appear offside to the naked eye. Sky Television, with its cameras and its blue line technology, proved conclusively that Barmby had come from behind Keown and Bould.

Such decisions turn matches. Everton, on the corresponding day last year, had been the last team to take all the points from Arsenal to Highbury, and once the home side found a higher rhythm, better shooting boots, poor Everton were swept aside. "We never doubted from the bench that it was a goal," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "But that doesn't take away some of the things I saw in the second half. We were comatose for a quarter of an hour; Arsenal didn't need the kind of sloppy defending

from us, they hit their own purple patch and my side, which had been tight for five games since Christmas, was like a colander." A sieve by any other name.

Dennis Bergkamp, in such resplendent form but about to be suspended, unhinged the Everton defence. The first goal, in the 55th minute, stemmed from a dreadful error by Barlow, who gave the ball carelessly to Winterburn. From then, through five pairs of feet, Everton were bemused by the ball-play and when Dixon lobbed it forward over an inert rearguard, Bergkamp, just using the instep of his right boot, let the ball fade elegantly off him into the net.

It was surprising that it took this long to exploit the obvious. In the very first minute Bergkamp appeared a man on turbo cruise control as he outpaced the comparatively ponderous Unsworth. Yet Arsenal, as pleasing as it was to see their self-control, as comprehensively as Merson ran from midfield and Vieira passed, waited too long

to exploit Bergkamp's graceful omnipotence.

Two minutes later, from a similar position but with full-blooded venom, Vieira almost burst the inside of the netting with another volley, this time after the ball had been poorly cleared from a corner. And the contest was effectively

TOP OF THE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	24	13	7	4	41	20	46
Manchester Utd	23	12	8	3	46	26	44
Arsenal	23	12	7	4	42	22	43
Everton	23	11	6	6	39	29	36
Wimbledon	21	11	6	5	34	29	35
Chelsea	23	10	8	5	36	32	34
Aston Villa	23	10	6	7	31	24	33

over after 68 minutes when Bergkamp, once again too fast of thought and movement, accelerated between Watson and Unsworth. Southall, having made two immaculate, overhead saves from Merson and Bergkamp, this time used his legs to deflect the low

shot from the Dutchman. Unfortunately for the goalkeeper, it rebounded off the shin of Unsworth to Merson who, from three yards, accepted the reward for following up and claimed his 99th goal in an Arsenal shirt.

"We had had problems finding our rhythm in the first half," Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I was a little bit scared that, physically, we were not prepared because of our cup match at Sunderland last Wednesday. So I was surprised how quick we started the second half, how we produced so much collective energy within the team, and when they share this energy with the crowd, they can beat anybody. It was not like that in Monaco, where you have no fans."

In Monaco, they did not have Bergkamp. Here, as for the past two months, he showed the hypnotic control, the agile mind to transcend yet another game. "I think after every match he comes in with a bottle of champagne," Wenger said. "He can open a shop now."

But he will drink alone, suspended for an uncharacteristic wild tackle on Paul Breacewell during the Premiership match away to Sunderland. David Platt, whose hamstring snapped in the second half, will also be out for three weeks. Signing Hristo Stoichkov on loan is only a rumour, and Wenger said: "We don't need a left winger. We are looking for a forward, but he is not on our list."

Everton were left reflect on what might have been. They are mid-table, have suffered five consecutive defeats, and struggle without Hinchcliffe, Parkinson, Grant and Ebbrell, all injured. Yet, with their new signing, Claus Thomsen, competently matching up to Vieira, they turned the pitch into a controlled environment for 45 minutes. Everton's intent was as grey as the north London weather, containment was almost an art form to them, and yet not only had they broken for the disallowed

goal, but two minutes after that Barmby had sweetly released Ferguson, whose first-time shot from the edge of the penalty box was saved thrillingly by Seaman, who dived at full stretch to his right.

In the end, Everton were allowed

one flurry, one consolation. It was 12 seconds from time, Arsenal had

lost concentration and Adams, in

his 500th game for the club, together with Bould and Keown, had relaxed. They simply watched

Ferguson soar majestically to head home his seventh goal of the season. A forlorn token for the team

wearing blue, but now it really does seem that red is the colour.

Results, page 28

Dalglish's task, page 29

Results and tables, page 30

QPR roar back, page 31

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FOOTBALL

Unfamiliar names help reinvigorate Liverpool

Liverpool 3
Aston Villa 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE final analysis, the next championship of England will be determined by the depth of club resources, the ability to recruit and to reorganise in a crisis. Liverpool remain tenuously on top of the FA Carling Premiership and they put a distance of ten points between themselves and Aston Villa on Saturday. Yet the first of their goals was headed in by an apprentice making his full debut, and the Liverpool defence was shored up by a Norwegian whose work permit came through less than 24 hours before kick-off.

"Our heads went down in the second half," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said. "We were miles behind them, apart from the first ten minutes. We weren't balanced to stop them playing in the middle of the park."

Balance? The English game has it all wrong. This deep midwinter, when we have underoil heating to make the Premiership pitches playable, we have nothing commensurate to soothe the over-stressed limbs of players, too many of whom have had no respite in a year because of the European championship.

Moreover, the fixture computer has virtually sabotaged Villa. In a month that began four days before Christmas they have had seven games and have played every one of the six teams above them, plus

an away game at Notts County in the FA Cup. If beating Wimbledon, drawing against Manchester United, Arsenal and Newcastle, losing to Chelsea and now Liverpool, constitutes Villa's litmus test, it hides the facts of injuries and suspensions that distort form.

Liverpool, for example, began Saturday without seven first-team individuals because of suspensions, illness, and injury.

Villa had five senior players out, but when their manager talks of balance, he means that the loss of Fernando Nelson, in the right wing-back position, from which they have already lost Charles, meant using Riccardo Scimeca in a position he has never previously played.

Unsurprisingly, with Bjornbech, Liverpool's other recruit from Rosenborg in Norway, in the form of his life, the breakthrough, when it came, was engineered down that flank.

These are strange times indeed at Anfield. Time was when the Kopites could reel off the names of their championship side, time when consistency of selection meant that just 14 players were involved in a championship campaign.

Liverpool have already had to field 21 players this season, stretching them across four competitions and, frankly, I cannot recall Liverpool winning only two home league games out of seven, as they had before Saturday. Nor throwing into the fray players who had barely trained with the first team.

Praise be, then, to Jamie Carragher, born in Bootle, he is, Roy Evans, the manager, thinks, best suited to a central defensive role. But once Bjorn-Tore Kavarme was made eligible, the manager opted to play the pair of them. Kavarme, 24, a solid right back, dealt manfully with the elusive and creative Yorkie, albeit with some guidance from Liverpool's stand-in captain, Mark Wright.

Carragher began over tentatively, being booked for a wild kick at Townsend 20 seconds after the first whistle, but he settled into what Evans described as "a very steady performance". At 18, he lacks the fear that has permeated recent Liverpool displays, he

has a neat and tidy appreciation of the club's passing game. Nevertheless, though Liverpool kept the ball for much of the time, Yorkie had three chances to put Villa clear in the first half.

Denied once by the toe-end of James's boot, Yorkie should have scored from three and eight yards. When he didn't, and when Bosnich made a superlative reaction save to parry a volley from McTeer, we were goalless.

That is not to imply this game was ever guileless. McManaman, trying to be the rhythm master in place of the injured Barnes, wearing bicycle shorts because he is prone to hamstring strain, was tire-

less. Even in this period of struggle, McManaman plays with joy in the game. He will take the ball audaciously up to an opponent, shake his hips, feign to the right and slip even an experienced campaigner such as Townsend by dodging to the left.

Marvellous stuff. And marvellous, too, was the fifth minute for Carragher. Imagine this is your first Liverpool game and you have made the most timely run to a corner from Bjornbech right in front of The Kop. The Villa defenders all eyes on Mark Wright, have left you free... and even as your header shoots down into the goal, the crowd are singing your name.

In the space of 13 minutes it was all over. McManaman, with an astonishing pass, struck the opposite way he was moving, released Bjornbech down the left once more. The Norwegian's pass to the goalmouth was precise. Collymore, though struggling for the rhythm of the game, was suddenly irrepressible as he got between Southgate and Tiler to score with a glancing header.

Then, when Redknapp arrived, as he had been doing all afternoon, to score from a distance, Bosnich failed to hold his low shot at the near post and Fowler was upon him, poaching his first goal in five games, during which his

persistent ankle injury has been all too obvious.

Brian Little is too obstinate a competitor to surrender Villa's little aspiration in January, though realistically he concedes that being ten points adrift of Liverpool is not ideal. And Evans? "It is nice to stay top, for once, by our own efforts. But who knows where this title is going to finish up?"

Who has the depth of character, of desire, of playing resources to last the pace?

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): B.T. Kavarme, M. Wright, C. McTeer, J. McTeer, J. Redknapp, J. Carragher, S. McManaman, S. Bjornbech, P. Fowler, S. Collymore (sub: M. Kennedy, 70). GK: M. Bosnich. LA (4-4-2): M. Bosnich — U. Etoh, G. Scoufides, C. Tiley — R. Schmeichel. A. Townsend, T. Johnson, A. Wright — S. Curcio — S. Miskovic, D. York. Referee: R. Dilks.

Francis left cursing Spurs' luck as Vega sees red

Nottingham Forest 2
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's crumbling season took a toll of terminal decline at the City Ground yesterday. They relinquished a 1-0 half-time lead, lost their fourth successive match, and also had Ramon Vega, the Switzerland centre back, sent off. Just when Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, must have thought his season could get no worse, it did.

Already out of contention in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup, Tottenham have only a UEFA Cup place to play for. Yet that, too, appears to be fast diminishing, even if their earnest efforts against Nottingham Forest deserved more. Fortune has deserted them.

For Forest, who escaped from the bottom three of the Premiership for the first time in three months, the balance has shifted dramatically since Stuart Pearce assumed his caretaker-player-manager's role shortly before Christmas. In his seven matches in charge, Forest have won five times. Frank Clark, his predecessor, had lost all power of motivation, yet Pearce provides it in abundance.

"Stuart told the lads not to get too excited," Pete Edwards, Forest's fitness trainer and designated post-match spokesman, said. "The commitment was excellent and everyone battled well, but we've got to do that for seven or eight more games before we can start to see daylight."

Tottenham took the lead after only 75 seconds. Nielsen's long throw evaded Calderwood, Campbell and the Forest defence, leaving Sinton to drive a crisp, low shot past Crossier. Tottenham absorbed Forest's steady pressure comfortably and Francis would have enjoyed the interval break but for Vega's dismissal in the 44th minute.

He had already been booked, for not retreating ten yards after he had conceded a free kick, when he tangled with Cooper, off the ball. Cooper fell, apparently having been struck in the face, and Vega was shown the red card by Jeff Winter, the referee. Cooper was also cautioned.

"I haven't yet seen the incident on video," Francis said. "If it was a punch, then I will be annoyed about it. We can ill afford to be without any more players." Vega now faces a three-match suspension, with Calderwood also likely to be banned for two games after passing 21 disciplinary points.

Forest equalised in the first minute of the second half, when Roy diverted in Lytle's cross. He punched again in the 62nd minute when Winter tried to play an advantage after Gemmill's blatant foul on Sinton, but Forest immediately regained possession. Bart-Williams drew a fine save from Walker and Roy tapped in the rebound. Gemmill was, indeed, booked before the restart. "If that was a fair advantage, I'm a Chinaman," Francis said. "What can you do when things like that happen? It really would be nice just to have a little bit of luck for a change."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Bosnich — F. Sinclair, C. Cooper, S. Chettle, S. Petrone, D. Pritchard (sub: P. Hughes, 46min), A. J. Heaslip, C. Bart-Williams, I. Walker (sub: B. Roy (sub: J. Lee, 89), N. Clough (sub: R. Vega, 47)), C. Calderwood, S. Campbell (sub: D. Howells (sub: S. Nethercott, 89)), S. Curcio, A. Wright, A. Sison (sub: P. Williams, 25), D. Sutcliffe. Referee: G. Poll.

Blackburn draw strength from Parkes's resolve

Sunderland 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS often said that a goalless scoreline does not tell the whole story. It did here. It was the story of a stifling, frustrating, numbing contest. A classic 0-0 - awful.

Blackburn Rovers played badly, creating only one chance but escaping with a valuable point — clearly a blueprint for survival. Sunderland, on the other hand, produced most of the attacking fare on offer, but wasted it woefully. They have a healthy amount of points already, and a passion to match, but a continuing failure in front of goal has cost them dear already and will continue to do so.

On the evidence, one would back Rovers to finish ahead of Sunderland, and that is a testament to the remarkable

transformation brought about by Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager. At the start of the season his team threw away points with the abandon of the tatty mascot who dispensed sweets to the crowd at Roker Park. Now, they do not even give away goals.

It was Rovers' sixth consecutive clean sheet, a rather encouraging habit. If it were

not for the barren Harford months, Blackburn might be occupying the top end of the table. The players recognise their debt to Parkes, the man responsible. "We probably would have lost that game earlier in the season, but Tony has introduced a spirit and discipline," Colin Hendry, the defender, said after another imposing performance.

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

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FOOTBALL: LE TISSIER PUNISHES NEWCASTLE IN SPECTACULAR STYLE AS TWO-GOAL LEAD IS SURRENDERED

Dalglish taxed by flawed inheritance

Southampton 2
Newcastle United 2

By DAVID MILLER

You could say that Kenny Dalglish's first match fully in command of Newcastle United conformed to stereotypes: Newcastle two-up with two minutes to go and failing to win, and Matthew Le Tissier, having made little serious impact within a struggling Southampton team, scoring a goal beyond dreams with almost the last kick.

On the other hand, you could say that Raymond Chandler hardly wrote a better fictional script. It takes a special moment of unpremeditated glory, however brief that may prove to have been in retrospect, to cause phlegmatic, middle-aged Hampshire folk to leap in the air and hug each other.

A relieved Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, wore the smile of a man who, if he did not need pills to reduce his blood pressure beforehand, did so by the finish. The sobering truth is that while Dalglish may, and probably will, add to Newcastle's £50 million bill by acquiring the necessary defender to

Results and tables 30
QPR storm back 31
Celtic's gripes 31

help to cement their title challenge, the unfortunate Souness is in no position to buy his team out of trouble.

The rearguard trio of Maddison, the sweeper, and Monkou and Dryden, the markers, were as inept against the threat of Shearer and Ferdinand as traffic cones are against motorcycles. There were times when Dryden, confronted with Ferdinand's pace, seemed as though he was running in a three-legged race, tied to an invisible partner. Yet what of Newcastle's own so-called defence, the factor that cost them the title last season? The fragility that Kevin Keegan never resolved awaits Dalglish's action, never mind his comment afterwards on the team's "communication".

Since succeeding Keegan, Dalglish's traditional pacific manner with the press, behind those piercing bright eyes, has been alleviated by a more benign demeanour. He recognises that there is a need to communicate with the North East public. Everything at St James' Park, he would have us believe, is great: the players, the directors, the supporters, the Kegan legacy.

Yet, with a Mona Lisa-like smile, he did admit that, with a two-goal lead in the 88th minute, "you would expect to win". He further said that he hoped his own impact on the team would "start right away". Newcastle can expect a



Dalglish watches anxiously among his tracksuited colleagues on the Newcastle United bench at The Dell. Photograph: Marc Aspland

swift implementation of the Anfield boot-room pragmatism that was also reproduced at Ewood Park.

"It's a great opportunity for me," Dalglish said of his appointment. He had, however, just seen two points evaporate, and will not be happy. Tributes to the team's handling of a midweek cup-tie against Charlton Athletic, under the stress of internal change, will be measured privately against his own experience as player and manager of handling the simultaneous climax of three domestic competitions and another in Europe.

Newcastle still have far to go. The FA Carling Premiership contest, Dalglish said, is closer than ever between top and bottom, with no club at the bottom yet out of touch.

"Whether that's improved it . . ." he added, and meaningfully left the sentence unfinished.

His first impact on the Newcastle formation was to omit Lee and to play Beardsley on the left, so as to give, with Gillespie, width on both flanks — as at Blackburn. There cannot be much future for Asprilla in the Dalglish formula.

Any approach seemed

likely to be too much for a willing but inaccurate Southampton in the first half, when muddle reigned. Confusion between Monkou and Dryden, under pressure from Shearer, resulted in Ferdinand rounding Taylor to score after 13 minutes. Ferdinand should have had a second soon afterwards, when put clear of the lumbering Dryden

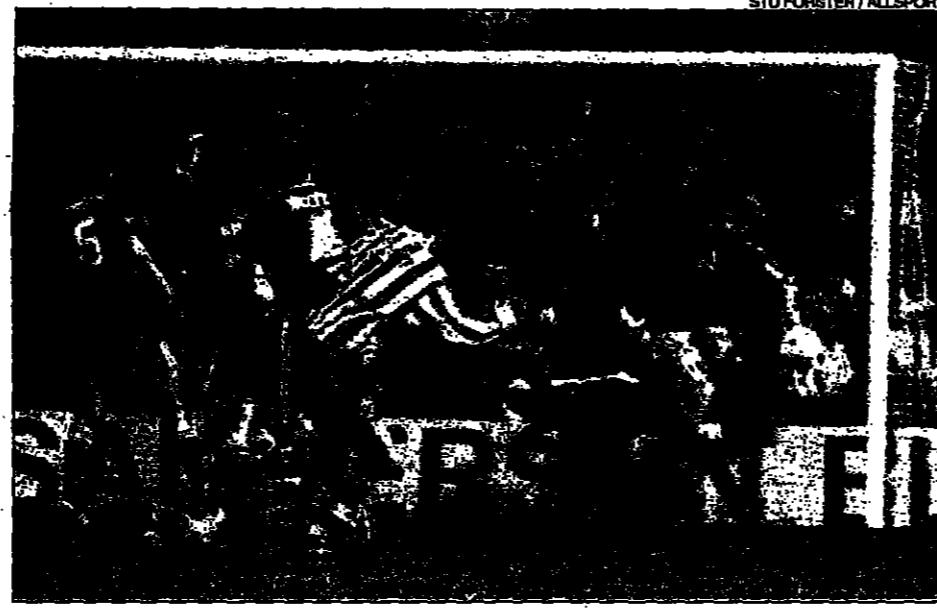
by Shearer, his low diagonal cross-shot skimming six inches wide of the far post.

Either side of that miss, Hislop had made magnificent saves from Magilton's long-range drive and then from a glancing header by Maddison from Le Tissier's free kick. But the first half ended with Southampton in more disarray, Clark hooking straight at

Taylor from close range and Shearer failing to score when put clear by Maddison's poor back pass. It was easy to see why so many of the 39 league goals that Southampton have conceded have been, in the manager's words, "bad goals".

Some sharp words at half-time reinvigorated Southampton. Le Tissier, dropped the

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT



Le Tissier's magnificent late equaliser for Southampton flashes past Hislop

previous week without protest — indication of the justification — is, nonetheless, the most dangerous long-range sniper in the business, and he went close from 20 yards. Hislop made another point-blank reflex save from Monkou's battering header, while Elliott should have been sent off for a disgraceful foul on Hughes.

When Clark stole behind the ball-watching Maddison to put Newcastle two-up with seven minutes to go, it was supposedly all over. But no. Newcastle had a surprise in reserve. The heroic Hislop dropped a difficult high ball under pressure from Dryden — the latter's chief contribution — to allow Maddison a shot into an empty net.

Newcastle panic became endemic another high and hopeful cross was headed partially clear across the edge of the penalty area and Le Tissier, free of any marker, unleashed what may well be the goal of the season.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-2): M Taylor — K Monkou, N Maddison, R Dryden — U van Gaal, E Beardsley (sub: S Basham, Amorusi), J Magilton (sub: D Hughes, 50), C Clark, M Robinson — E O'Connor, M Le Tissier.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-2): S Heaton — K Gillespie (sub: R Lee, 78), D Batty, L Clark, P Beardsley — L Ferdinand, A Shearer. Referee: M Reed

STEVE McMANAMAN



on the responsibilities of playing at Anfield

I feel, too, for the people of Liverpool, because I believe that sometimes we have had a bit of a raw deal. We are portrayed in a particular way and that image is a bit unflattering. Yet this is a strong, vibrant city that deserves a better chance. There has been a decline over the past few years that has been painful to witness.

Liverpool always seems to come in for its fair share of bad news, just like any big city I suppose. Yet the people here are not all whingers, skivers or cheats, as it sometimes seems they are portrayed. They are normal, decent working-class people and it would be refreshing if some good news came along for a change.

That is why I believe the football club is important. If we do well, then we can present a positive image of our city, just as Manchester United have done for their city in recent years. That is what happened to a certain extent in the Seventies and Eighties when Liverpool were so successful and there could not be a better time to do it again.

Nobody wants the uncertainty hanging over them that the workers at Ford are now having to suffer. There is a fear that the whole plant could be under threat and I hope to God that doesn't happen. I am not sure how big the news of the redundancies was in the rest of the country, but believe me it is massive news here.

I hope that our victory over Aston Villa helped those Liverpool supporters at Halewood to forget their problems for a few hours over the weekend. I hope, too, that they realise we want to win things for Liverpool Football Club as much as they do. When we don't play so well, it may not seem like it, but we know how important it all is.

City turns to football for a sense of pride

Victory at last, and it was an important one. Significant — obviously — for the league, because Liverpool defeated rivals in Aston Villa, whose breath we could begin to feel; but important, too, because of events on Merseyside in the week.

It was announced last week that more than 1,300 workers will be made unemployed at the Ford car plant at Halewood. Now, for all my obsession with football, that is a sobering and upsetting thought and one that really does make you stop to think.

It will have a significant impact on the city of Liverpool, and on people's lives. I have an uncle and a cousin who work there, and most people know somebody at the plant because it is such a big employer in the area.

A lot of the workers come from the Speke area, where Liverpool airport is situated — and there was bad news for the airport, too, because Manchester was awarded a second runway, which means Liverpool will suffer even more. The people in the area have been dealt a terrible blow.

I realise that many will ask: "What does a footballer at a big club care about all that?" The answer is that Liverpool players have a responsibility to the people of the city, to the

people who have been put out of jobs. I think, also, that players like myself and Robbie Fowler, who were born in the area, will feel the pain of a loss like this.

People have been dealt a terrible blow.

When Clark stole behind the ball-watching Maddison to put Newcastle two-up with seven minutes to go, it was supposedly all over. But no. Newcastle had a surprise in reserve. The heroic Hislop dropped a difficult high ball under pressure from Dryden — the latter's chief contribution — to allow Maddison a shot into an empty net.

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Safety still the name of Kinnear's game

Leicester City 1
Wimbledon 0

By KEITH PIKE

WITH an air of confidence bordering on defiance, the manager was escorted into the broom cupboard that doubles as an interview room at Gilbert Street and brushed aside those who still doubted. "I think it will need 41 points to stay in the Premiership and I am convinced we can do that," he said. "After we have a realistic chance of getting to the Coca-Cola Cup final, so we have done remarkably well."

They have, too, but was Martin O'Neill getting carried away by the euphoria of one victory, no matter how merited and how impressive the performance that earned it? Well, no, actually. This was Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, talking, and you had to remind yourself that his side had just lost, narrowly but emphatically nonetheless.

Slightly tongue in cheek it may have been, but if the manager of a team that is fifth in the table with two games in hand, and who have already accumulated 38 points towards Kinnear's target for safety, is still remotely perturbed by their position, it is only indicative of the immense pressure on clubs of the stature of Wimbledon and Leicester City to preserve their status.

Provided that Leicester win their fifth-round tie against Ipswich Town at Portman Road tomorrow, these sides will meet in the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup. Glory, not to mention a UEFA Cup place, beckons. But it goes without saying that both clubs would prefer to sit Canning all next season than enjoy a dash of Wembley Coke. The reason, of course, is cash. "If we go down, it is £9 million down the tubes," Kinnear said. "Loss that, and getting back would be impossible."

Wimbledon, for all Kinnear's bluster, have long since been able to focus on silverware rather than survival, although successive below-par displays — merely uninspired against

Ince wants to stay in Italy, says Hodgson

PAUL INCE wants to stay in Italy and is angry about speculation over a move to Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership title-chasers. Roy Hodgson, the Internazionale coach, said yesterday.

The England midfield player is serving out the last of a three-match suspension, reduced from four last week, and has been linked to Arsenal, but Hodgson said:

"I've spoken to Paul and he's told me he's very annoyed by the persistent rumours from England: he wants to stay here."

"I too continue to read that the Arsenal manager [Arsene Wenger] is a big admirer of Ince — and I can't get worked up about that. However, it should be made clear that Arsenal have never opened negotiations, and that Ince has another 18 months of his contract with Inter."

Mick Tait yesterday re-signed as Hartlepool manager, just three weeks after being given the job.

He was appointed on a permanent basis at the end of December after a successful two-month spell as caretaker but has left over plans by the third division club to save money by scrapping their youth policy.

Tait said: "I got a number of players to sign after promising them the youth and reserve teams were here to stay. I can't be associated with a plan to drop them."

However, Harold Hornsey, the chairman, said: "It's a bolt from the blue. We have made no decision yet and I certainly don't want to see the youth policy die."

LEICESTER CITY (4-2): K Keane — S Gaynor, S Peter, M Pilkington — M Cox, G Parker, N Potts, P Healey — S Glenden, J Marshall

WIMBLEDON (4-2): N Sullivan — N Cunningham, J Arday (sub: J Goodwin, 77min), V Jones, R Evans, O Olofinjana (sub: M Herford, 82) — E Boak, M Gaynor

Middlesbrough find unity in adversity

Middlesbrough 4
Sheffield Wednesday 2

By MARK HODKINSON

INJUSTICE, whether perceived or real, can have a remarkable effect on football teams. It causes them to unite, supplies a collective aim and, while the blood boils, opponents can be overrun and points collected.

The whole of Middlesbrough is seething at the loss of three points deducted by the FA Carling Premiership for their decision to postpone a match against Blackburn Rovers. The hurt showed on the faces of supporters as they negotiated the subways and level crossings on the way to the Riverside Stadium. Steve Gibson, Middlesbrough's chairman, complained in the programme of a "profoundly unjust" decision and "injustice", a word picked out in red ink.

"It is time to fight, that is what I have told my players," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said before the match and Sheffield Wednesday provided a perfect opening bout. Sure, they can take a pounding, but unlike Wimbledon or Sunderland, they will not stand toe-to-toe, round after round, until someone decides to turn off the floodlights.

It was Dejan Stefanovic who kindly set Middlesbrough on their way when he jumped to put his gloved hand to a cross from Ravanelli. The Italian took the penalty himself and thumped it past Pressman, who had a profound dislike of corners and when Beck deflected the ball to the far post, Festa, Middlesbrough's new signing from Internazionale, forced it over the line with various upper parts of his anatomy.

Pressman then pulled a goal back after a lumbering run from Humphreys.

Middlesbrough dominated play and appeared to extend their lead when Ravanelli finished off a delightful move involving Festa and Juninho. The referee's assistant, Mike Stoddart,

flagged and the effort was disallowed. Ravanelli was incensed and raced to the official, almost knocking him off his feet. It was a shameful reaction that warranted a dismissal but brought merely a booking.

Just two minutes later, when Ravanelli had again strayed offside, Stoddart, a thin, balding figure once more put his flag up. Ravanelli chose the moment to audition for the Teesside and District Amateur Dramatic Society. His King Lear, with eyes rolling, shoulders twitching and moulting screams of betrayal, was rightly seen as a touch overplayed and he was sent from the field.

It was now, as far as they could see, Middlesbrough against the world and they cracked with determination. Pressman landed clumsy at the feet of Beck and Emerson gleefully rifled the penalty beyond the goalkeeper.

In the final minute, Juninho set his feet dancing and his slalom run finished with him staring at Pressman and an expanse of space across the goal. He struck the ball low and hard and the netting bulged.

Robson broke with protocol and did not attend the after-match press conference, preferring to send up his new signing, Festa, along with an interpreter, a burly chap fond of hair gel and designer coats. He told us that the defender felt "great emotion" when he scored and that the "public is a lot more warmer" in England than Italy. Perhaps, after all the recent aggravation, Middlesbrough's best chance of salvation lies with keeping all their passion for their football.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-2): B Robson — G Festa, S Stokes, D Whyley — R Muttress, Emerson, A Moon, J Amorusi — F Ravanelli, M Beck (sub: J Fenton, 84min)

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-2): K Pressman — S Nicoll (sub: R Walker, 46), D Walker, D Stefanovic, I Nolan — G Whittingham (sub: D Hirst, 77), G Hyde, P Ashton, J Amorusi — R Humphreys (sub: W Collier, 89), A Bonin

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FOOTBALL: RUDGE DESPAIRS AS QPR RECOVER FROM 4-0 HALF-TIME DEFICIT TO SNATCH UNLIKELY DRAW

Late collapse reduces Vale to tears

Port Vale 4
Queens Park Rangers 4

By RICHARD HOBSON

LEADING 4-0 with 50 minutes gone, Port Vale felt sufficiently confident of success yesterday that they hardly bothered to remonstrate with Richard Poulain when the referee adjudged that a shot from Tony Naylor had been cleared off the line by Karl Ready, the Queens Park Rangers' defender. Television replays proved that the decision was wrong, and 40 minutes later that incident assumed unlikely significance as the visitors, scoring three goals in the closing five minutes, secured a draw in an extraordinary game.

John Rudge, of Port Vale, and Stewart Houston, his QPR counterpart, appeared ashen-faced as they spoke to the press, their complexions alone dispelling the myth that pressure on managers is unique to FA Carling Premier-ship clubs.

"I said to the players at half-time that if Vale could score four in the first half, then we could do the same in the second," Houston said. "In the old days, Liverpool scored so many times in the last few minutes that people said they were lucky. They were not then, and we were not here. You need high energy levels to make things like that happen."

Houston, a placid, almost-dour man, betrayed his feelings by running onto the pitch when John Spencer completed the recovery with almost the final kick of the game. Visiting supporters also encroached from behind the Vale goal in almost deranged glee. Some were escorted from the ground

immediately by stewards. Rudge, sporting a military-style cap and trench coat, resembled a French soldier on the retreat from Moscow: heavy-shouldered, short of stride and staring at the ground in disbelief.

"It was just so unprofession- al to let them come back from the dead," Rudge said. "We played exceptionally well for more than an hour, but were left at the end simply feeling sick."

Rudge had never known such a comeback in all his years in football. Few could, though. QPR themselves fought back from 4-0 behind at half-time to draw 5-5 with Newcastle United 13 years ago, when Rudge had been newly-installed as the Vale manager. The result suggests that Newcastle's charitable approach to defending pre-dates the arrival at St James' Park of Peacock and Hislop.

It remains to be seen if either Vale or QPR break bread with Newcastle next season. Vale would have moved to seventh place in the Nationwide League first division had they taken all three points, as, of course, they should. Their prospects of promotion seem unlikely. In the broadest scale of English football they are not sellers and there is a growing probability of them losing at least one of the wingers, Steve Guppy or Jon McCarthy, to the Premiership before the month is out.

Those two had a hand in the first three goals. McCarthy won a corner after 25 minutes from which Glover opened the scoring, and the substitute marked his debut in the 65th minute when he aped the hapless Brazier by heading a cross from Sinclair beyond his own goalkeeper.



Naylor, the Port Vale striker who had one goal harshly disallowed, tries his luck again yesterday

Vale had been forced to rearrange their defence after just five minutes, when Holway replaced the injured Griffiths, and the substitute marked his debut in the 65th minute when he aped the hapless Brazier by heading a cross from Sinclair beyond his own goalkeeper.

Yet, as Mills headed wide and Jansson drew a splendid save from Roberts — chances to rank alongside Naylor's goal that never was — the prospect of anything but a resounding home win seemed remote.

With five minutes remaining, though, Impay, a sub-

stitute, volleyed spectacularly past Musselwhite, and Murray capitalised on more good work from the excellent Sinclair to chip over the on-rushing goalkeeper. Suddenly, the unthinkable seemed plausible, and it became reality when, after Dicio had a header turned away, Spencer

reacted quickest to score from close range.

PORT VALE (4-0) P. Musselwhite — A. G. Johnson (sub: M. Mills), S. J. Porter, J. Johnson — L. Mills, A. Naylor

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3) A. G. Johnson — M. Graham (sub: D. Mordt), A. E. G. Johnson, D. J. Pohorecki, J. Spencer, S. Guppy — P. Murray, G. Peacock, M. Brazier (sub: A. Impay, 61) — J. Spencer, M. Haleyle (sub: D. Dicio, 61), — S. Guppy, R. Poulain

Bolton bare teeth to chase off Wolves

Bolton Wanderers 3
Wolverhampton W 0

By PETER BALL

ACCORDING to Mark McGhee, Bolton Wanderers won a lot more than a football match at Burnden Park on Saturday. "I think they won the league today," Palice and Barnes lost, we're all now chasing the next five places," McGhee said after watching his vanquished Wolverhampton Wanderers put firmly, even brutally, in their place.

Wolves had gone to Bolton with the best away record in the Nationwide League first division and were hoping to open up the championship.

Instead they left with耻辱, shattered, bruised physically and mentally, out-fought and outclassed.

Jamie Pollock revelled in a rare outing to rampage across midfield, winning virtually every tackle, while Sellars and Sheridan cut Wolves apart with their passing. Richards and Curle were driven to distraction by Blake and McGhee, who scored a goal apiece. Curle was so disorientated that he blasted Bolton's decisive second goal past his own goalkeeper in his desperation.

To most neutral observers, Bolton also won the mass brawl that distinguished the start of the match.

"I think one of the things that's got to be admired about them is that they manage to play, yet they manage to compete," McGhee said. "We manage to compete, but at

times we don't manage to play."

The teams have a history of ill-feeling, going back to the play-off semi-finals of two years ago, when McGhee was allowed to stay on the field after flooring David Kelly with a right hook and went on to score the winner. At Molineux in October, Darren Ferguson, of Wolves, was sent off in the closing minutes.

On Saturday there was no doubt about Bolton's readiness for the fray. "That was how we set our stall out, we showed our steel today," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said.

McGhee, who had needed a pain-killing injection to play, did not lead the way when the brawl broke out but he was

soon involved with 21 others after Sheridan was intercepted by a Wolves defender and replied with a flurry of punches.

"I didn't see what started it, it was difficult to sort out the aggressors from the peace-makers, so all I could do was take the captains to one side and say 'it's four minutes past three, can you calm your lads down?'" David Allison, the referee, said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-2) G. Ward — G. Bergeson, C. Pollock, J. Taggart, L. Johnson, J. Curle — J. Pollock, J. Sheridan, S. Guppy — J. McGhee (sub: S. Green, 87min), N. Blake

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERS (4-2) M. Richards — J. Spencer, S. Barnes, D. Sellars, J. Sheridan, N. Barnes (sub: D. Goodman, 69), S. Guppy (sub: M. Atkins, 71), G. Thomas (sub: A. Thompson, 71), S. Flogatti — S. Bull, J. Roberts

Holders fall to ambitious Harriers

Kidderminster Harriers .. 3
Macclesfield Town 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

TWO late goals put the gloss on a satisfying victory for Kidderminster Harriers that put Macclesfield Town, the holders, out of the FA Umbro Trophy in the first round at Aggborough on Saturday.

Macclesfield did not give up their crown lightly in a high-paced contest full of positive football that enhanced the reputations of both Vauxhall Conference sides.

Kidderminster took the lead in the 34th minute when Weir timed his run perfectly to meet Doherty's corner with a thumping header. Not long before, Bignell had rescued Kidderminster with a clearance off the line.

In pursuit of an equaliser, Macclesfield pushed Howarth forward from defence, a move that nearly paid off when he sent a shot onto and over the bar. Kidderminster, however, finished them off with an exquisite free kick by Karen Burke.

The next time the ball hit an upright it was on its way into the Chester net, dispatched there by Matthew Rush, on loan from Norwich City, who had run on to a poor headed clearance and thumped his shot past Sinclair's right hand. Two minutes later the crossbar intervened. Grayson's header rebounding into the path of Cooper, who returned it into the goal.

Notman soon reduced the deficit, intercepting a casual back-pass and rounding the goalkeeper to score, but the excellent Warburton headed a third from Grayson's corner a minute before half-time and Sampson netted a fourth after Grayson had struck the post yet again. Grayson finally scored a goal of his own when he chested down a long clearance before beating Sinclair.

It left Ratcliffe slightly shell-shocked, although he could still raise a laugh when a reporter asked him where Chester went after a defeat like this. "Lincoln City away, isn't it?" he replied.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (5-2) A. Warburton — I. Clarkson, I. Sampson, D. O'Shea, R. Warburton, L. Jackson, J. Grayson, S. Sampson (sub: D. Pindar) — N. Bignell, N. Cawthron, K. Williams, J. Deakin — J. Grayson, J. Hughes

CHESTER CITY (4-3) R. Sinclair — P. Dayson, P. Jackson, S. Whelan, I. Jordison — C. Priest, S. Rice, N. Fisher (sub: M. Woods, 71) — A. Minter, R. McDonald (sub: C. Byrne, 69min) — C. Williams, F. Notman

Referee: A. Bates

Blowing whistle on rumours of a conspiracy

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

they suffered a defeat against Hibernian in the Bell's Scottish League premier division this season when a penalty was given for a foul committed outside the area.

For the Ibrox club, the suggestion that they benefit from some sort of clandestine pact by referees is galling, since it ignores the glaring fact that Rangers remain the best team in Scotland.

While the integrity of officials must be defended, though, it is also fair to observe that there has been a decline in standards. Judgment is now liable to buckle under the stresses of the principal matches, and one man in particular has illuminated a persistent fallibility in Scottish referees.

Paul Gascoigne always

had the greatest test and, in his case, a troubling pattern has emerged. His time with Rangers has been strewn with unpunished offences. To take a sample of examples, Gascoigne has, in the past week, made an obscene gesture to the Kilmarock goalkeeper and persistently kicked Ilian Kirikov.

Last season, in another match with Aberdeen, he butted an opponent in the chest. None of these incidents, however, proved sufficient to have the official fishing in his pocket for a card. It is argued, in some well-informed quarters, that referees are fearful of the publicity that will engulf them if they were to dismiss Gascoigne.

Certainly, statistics demonstrate a remarkable contrast in the treatment of the midfield player in different arenas. So far, Gascoigne has made 60 appearances for Rangers in domestic competitions without being sent off, but ten games in the European Cup have brought him two red cards. The SFA frets over Saturday could go unnoticed by any official. In addition, Rangers could protest over the manner in which

Croydon fight back to keep cup dream alive

By SARAH FORDE

CROYDON, THE UK Living Women's FA Cup holders, are

through to the fifth round of the competition after late goals from Hope Powell and Kerry Davis overhauled Liverpool, last year's beaten finalists, who had taken the lead with an exquisite free kick by Karen Burke.

At the fourth-round stage was always going to be a tight affair but Croydon continue to be expertly controlled by Debbie Bampton, their player-manager, and the England captain, and exerted a determination to defend their title that Liverpool struggled to break down.

The Merseyside team, for their part, have the painful accolade of finishing as runners-up in the cup for the past three years, but form suggested Croydon, the league leaders, would spare them the agony for a fourth time by disposing of them yesterday. And so it was.

The game stepped up a gear or two after a cagey and unproductive first half for both teams when Burke, Liverpool's midfield mow, produced her curling kick that looped well beyond a floundering

Louise Cooper in the Croydon goal.

There followed a period of control from Liverpool with Burke the orchestrator, then a series of menacing raids from Croydon into the Liverpool danger zone that became increasingly frequent. Davis twice hit the post for Croydon before Powell volleyed them level with six minutes remaining. The final word came from Davis, who poked Croydon in front from close range and through to the fifth round.

Elsewhere, Doncaster Belles and Arsenal charted safe passages through to the next round — Doncaster beat Sheffield Wednesday 10-1 and Arsenal put six past Barry Town.

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Stockport fire warning of more upsets to come

Stockport County 5
Millwall 1

By PAT GIBSON

IF THOSE clubs scrambling to get out of the Nationwide League second division thought that Stockport County's preoccupation with slaying giants in the cup competitions this season had left them with one less team to worry about, they were very much mistaken.

Millwall learnt that the hard way at Edgeley Park on Saturday.

They had travelled north thinking they were back on course for promotion after claiming their first League victory since November, but were promptly overwhelmed by the kind of Stockport performance that has seen off Shrewsbury, Blackpool, and West Ham United in the Coca-Cola Cup and Stoke City in the FA Cup.

Jimmy Nicholl, the Millwall manager, looked crestfallen afterwards, but he conceded that Stockport are going to be a threat to everybody, not just in their own division but to Southampton, who they meet in a Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Edgeley on Wednesday night, and Birmingham City, who they visit in the FA Cup on Saturday.

"The evidence is there," Nicholl said. "They are very hard to play against. They are well organised, no nonsense at the back, comfortable on the ball and away they go. There is a lot of action in the last third of the field. They use their

Old boys' reunion turns into a rout for Ratcliffe

Northampton Town 5
Chester City 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHILE the meeting of Liverpool's boys Dalglash and Souness was demanding the nation's attention, two former Everton colleagues, Ian Atkins and Kevin Ratcliffe, the managers of Northampton Town and Chester City respectively, enjoyed their own reunion. Well, one of them did.

Ratcliffe may have won a clutch of medals and international caps, but Atkins, never such a notable performer during their 18 months together at Goodison, won the tactical battle at Sixfields Stadium as his team consolidated their position in the play-off places of the Nationwide League third division.

It seemed harsh, since Bircham had the imprint of the ball on his stomach to show where it hit him, but Armstrong buried the penalty mercilessly. Five minutes after that, Flynn stole in front of the Millwall defence to head in from a free kick and any fleeting thoughts of a Millwall recovery disappeared inside seven minutes of the second half, when defensive aberrations allowed Cavaco to score twice.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-3) P. Jones — S. Connolly (sub: T. Dinning, 65min), M. Flynn, J. Bannon, L. Todd — J. Curran, T. Barnes, C. Marland, K. Durkin (sub: J. Jeffers, 72) — A. Mutch (sub: R. Landon, 69), A. Miller — M. Bircham, R. Williams, D. Savage, S. Roach (sub: D. Sinclair, 49) — P. Henley, R. Cedeira (sub: R. Bowey, 49), S. Crawford

Referee: A. Bates

Northampton Town 5
Chester City 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

Allowing themselves to be outnumbered in midfield, Northampton got the ball to their three hard-working forwards as quickly and as often as possible. The result was a thoroughly uncomfortable afternoon in defence

or even how many times the chain gang comes on.

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18

ATHLETICS

Exit of Radford highlights splits in BAF structure

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Peter Radford was accused by a former aide during the weekend of deserting a sinking ship, the vessel in question was less the *Titanic*, more Tony Billomore's *Exide Challenger*. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) floating upside down rather than disappearing beneath the waterline.

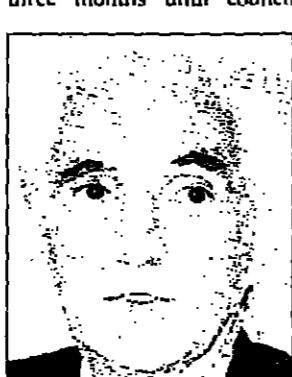
Radford's decision to resign as the BAF executive chairman took everybody by surprise: management board, council and British Athletes' Association (BAA) included. It was, in no small measure, because of Radford's frustration at the lower end of the sport dictating to the top. While capsized like that, it cannot progress.

The BAF management board, scheduled to meet next month, will hold an emergency meeting this week after Radford, two weeks short of his third anniversary in the job, announced on Saturday that he would be leaving to take up a post as professor and head of sports sciences at Brunel University. The board must decide whether to seek a direct replacement, redefine the role or, perhaps, appoint more than one leader. Speculation on a successor is, therefore, premature.

Radford fell dragged down by the anchor of the BAF council, comprising some 50 people. A successor would have to be "given the freedom I was never given". Aged 57, and on 12 months' notice, he is likely to remain in his post until September, when the academic year begins, giving

the federation time to guard against such a hasty decision.

Geoff Parsons, the BAA director with whom Radford had worked closely in recent months, is adamant, too, that the professional end must be permitted to think for itself. "The next person will be no more successful than Peter if his hands are tied behind his back," Parsons said. "We need a management structure for people to make decisions instead of delaying them for three months until council



Radford: no freedom

meets. Peter was undoubtedly frustrated at the structure.

"The council is the governing body of British athletics but the people there are little factions concerned with club and area issues. You ask: 'Where is the British view?' Nobody asks about the British policy for disabled athletics or the national stadium. There are 50 people each fighting their own corner. They do not make decisions in the best interests of Britain."

Brown's defiant run comes to muddy end

JON BROWN'S unbeaten cross-country season, during which he has claimed a succession of distinguished scalps, came to a muddy end in Seville yesterday (David Powell writes).

Brown was not so much outspun as outswum by Paulo Guerra, whom he deposed as European champion last month, in a World Cross Challenge race.

Describing the conditions as "the worst I have ever raced in", Brown led with 100 metres of the ten-kilometre course to go. However, unable to exert enough grip to sprint in calf-deep mud and rainwater, Brown was passed by Guerra, whose victory, in 29min 57sec, put him two seconds ahead of the Briton. Paul Tergat, the world champion from Kenya, was third five seconds farther back.

Brown's run of success had begun in December with a victory over Tergat in the Llodio race in Spain. Then he denied Guerra a third successive European title win in Charleroi and defeated Daniel Komen, the 3,000 metres world record-holder. In

Durham, Brown began 1997 as he had ended 1996, defeating Thomas Nyariki, a sub-13 minutes Kenyan 5,000 metres runner, by 17 seconds in Elgoibar, Spain.

It was Brown who pushed the pace on with three kilometres remaining to reduce the leading group to three but, slipping as he went, he was unable to sustain a burst to drop either Guerra or Tergat.

"I felt I had a win in me but there were not enough places to go hard and wear down the opposition," Brown said.

Ian Mackie, who is expected to succeed Linford Christie as Britain's No 1 100 metres runner next summer, won his first indoor 60 metres of the season in the Scottish championships in Glasgow yesterday.

While Colin Jackson maintained his progress towards a 60 metres hurdles and flat double at the world indoor championships in Paris in March, winning the hurdles in 7.61sec. Mackie — who won the sprint in 6.73sec — said he would be missing the world event.

Radford gave not the slightest hint that he was considering an offer to go back to academia when interviewed by *The Times* last Tuesday. He was, to use the vague word, focused, concentrating on playing the part of a chairman who had no thought of leaving, though he must have known he probably would. Radford said he made his decision on Friday.

He included himself in statements about the sport's future. "I am very confident we have a good future with our sponsors," he said. After the departure of Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, Radford said that "on the major issues it is almost certain I shall be the spokesman." No indication at all that he was about to leave. "I believe the sport has a bright horizon," he added.

When Radford took office, he said that the "plight of the clubs is very serious," acknowledged that he had been elected by them and added that "the 'us' and 'themness' has now been broken." However, his perceived preoccupation with the elite gave rise to voices of discontent and moves were afoot among the clubs to have him removed, or his powers limited.

Radford's anger with the amateurs was evident last week when he criticised their reluctance to accept a registration scheme. "Faced with the question 'How do you want to resource your sport?' the answer was: 'Let somebody else fund it,'" he said.

His relationship with the press was most uncomfortable and probably contributed towards his decision. He booted over last week when one newspaper listed a "dossier of disasters", highlighting losses of £750,000, the departure of Ward, Frank Dick and Andy Norman, rows with Michael Johnson, Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, and declining sponsorship, television and spectator income.

"All staff are affected by the things they read in the newspapers," Radford said. He insisted that he had "been involved in a great deal of meaningful, useful and valuable work." He noted improved relations with athletes, a performance plan for National Lottery funding, ensuring athletics was part of the new national stadium, and support for disabled athletes.

Radford accused the media of "a pessimism and cynicism which is not in the office" and said his new job is more appealing for carrying only minor media interest. Students may appreciate his lectures but journalists did not.

"I am doing what is best for me," Radford said of his decision. In a week marked by splits, it was better that Radford should take the Chris Evans way out, and leave voluntarily, rather than like Brian Harvey of East 17, be shown the door.

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THE SPLITTING OF THE SNIKERS' SCHOOL FOOTBALL COMPETITION INTO TWO TOURNAMENTS HAS ALREADY PROVED ITS WORTH (John Goodbody writes).

SO DOMINANT HAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGES BECOME IN THE UNDER-19 COMPETITION THAT MANY SCHOOLS WERE REFUSING TO ENTER THEIR COUNTY ROUNDS AND THE NUMBERS TAKING PART HAD DROPPED FROM A PEAK OF 2,500 TO 1,500 LAST SEASON.

PETER HUGHES, THE SECRETARY OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (ESFA), SAID:

"THIS MEANT THAT MANY PLAYERS WERE NOT HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF REACHING THE NATIONAL SQUAD, BECAUSE THE COMPETITION GAVE THEM A PLATFORM TO IMPRESS SELECTORS."

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"THIS MEANT THAT MANY PLAYERS WERE NOT HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF REACHING THE NATIONAL SQUAD, BECAUSE THE COMPETITION GAVE THEM A PLATFORM TO IMPRESS SELECTORS."

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BOTH TOURNAMENTS HAVE REACHED THE NATIONAL STAGE AND, IN THE SCHOOLS' SECTION, SANDBACH, OF CHESHIRE, ALREADY HAVE ALREADY CAUSED A SURPRISE.

AFTER UPSETTING POYNTON HS, MACCLESFIELD AND

QUEEN'S PARK, CHESTER, IN THE COUNTY TOURNAMENT, THEY BEAT ARCHBISHOP BECK, OF AINSFREIGHT, 3-2 IN THE FIRST NATIONAL ROUND LAST WEDNESDAY. THEY HAVE A FORMIDABLE DEFENCE, BUILT AROUND MARK RUSSELL, A COUNTY PLAYER, AND A LIVELY ATTACK, LEAD BY DONALD BOOTH.

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IN-CHARGE OF FOOTBALL, SAID:

"UNLIKE MOST SCHOOLS, WE CONCENTRATED ON RUGBY LAST TERM AND IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO GET ANY CONTINUITY WHEN WE ARE ONLY HAVING CUP GAMES. BY HAVING A FOOT IN EACH CAMP, WE ARE USUALLY PREVENTED FROM COMPETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL."

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PETER HUGHES

RACING: MAGUIRE TRIUMPHS AFTER POLICE ESCORT HELPS HIM REACH LEOPARDSTOWN IN TIME

Mulligan makes mad dash worthwhile

FROM RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
AT LEOPARDSTOWN

A HIGH-SPEED police escort through Dublin's suburbs helped to erase a nightmare start to 1997 for David Nicholson and Adrian Maguire as Mulligan eclipsed Danoli here yesterday.

Two Garda motorcycle outriders cleared the way for the pair of limousines carrying



Mulligan and Maguire clear the last on their way to victory in the Baileys Arkle Chase at Leopardstown yesterday

Going: good
2.40 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade 1; £34,000; 2m)
1. COCKNEY LAD (P Hughes, 10-1); 2. THEATREWORLD (P. S. S. 10-1); 3. DANOLI (P. C. 10-1); 4. ALSO RAN (P. S. 10-1); 5. Zabadi (P. S. 10-1); 6. UNBELIEVEABLE (S. H. 10-1); 7. NOTCHING UP (P. S. 10-1); 8. N. V. (P. S. 10-1); 9. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 10. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 11. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 12. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 13. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 14. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 15. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 16. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 17. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 18. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 19. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 20. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 21. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 22. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 23. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 24. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 25. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 26. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 27. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 28. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 29. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 30. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 31. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 32. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 33. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 34. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 35. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 36. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 37. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 38. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 39. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 40. T. T. (P. S. 10-1); 41. T. T. 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After seeing a women's rugby match Christian Dymond says England v Scotland will be a cracker



Although not the top flight of women's rugby, Blaydon Barracudas (in red) against Wharfedale saw some good tackling and fine handling skills. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence. Photographs by Michael Scott

to victory

A great way to spend a Sunday

If my experience is anything to go by, the women's rugby international between England and Scotland next weekend should be a cracker.

England women's team are the world champions and Scotland lost the fixture only 12-8 last year. The match takes place at Blackheath on Sunday and is preceded by a game between the two national women's A sides.

With England men's poor performance against Argentina still relatively fresh in my memory, I travelled to the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne to watch the women of Blaydon Barracudas entertain the might of Wharfedale.

This was by no means the top flight of women's rugby—Blaydon and Wharfedale are in the northern league of the third division—but both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and open way.

Blaydon Barracudas were also looking to improve their performance after their defeat in Yorkshire a few weeks before, and early evidence suggested enough bite to rattle the visitors. Scrummaging looked pretty solid, there was clean ball from the lineout and after five minutes Elizabeth Simpson, their nippy wing, should have gone over for a

try but the final pass was way off target.

Gradually, though, Wharfedale got a grip on the game, their backs attacking while their forwards seemed far more mobile around the pitch. By half-time they were leading 10-0. This increased to 20-0 before Blaydon replied with their solitary try. This galvanized them, but only briefly, and, as they ran out of steam, so Wharfedale ran them ragged, the final result being 46-5.

It did emerge later that Blaydon had been decimated by sickness and had taken the field with two players who had never before experienced a full game.

The match certainly impressed Tom Sarginson, 17, one of about 30 spectators hugging the touchline. A rugby player who had never watched a women's game, he said: "It was extremely entertaining, much better than I thought it was going to be. A lot of the tackling was excellent and there were some good moves and great handling skills."

The 30 players on the pitch at Blaydon were some of the 12,000 to 15,000 women who now play rugby in the British Isles. In the past few years the game has grown from 12 teams in 1983 to about 270 clubs, some with two or three sides. Rules are the same as for men.

Rugby generally has a higher profile and the growth in the women's game owes a lot to that. There is also the fact that England women won the World Cup in 1994, as I was told by Rosie Golby, the president of the Rugby Foot-



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ball Union for Women, the governing body for the game in England.

A player for 13 years, she turns out as scrum half or centre for Old Leamingtonians in Leamington Spa. "I play because it's a team sport and a contact sport and because I enjoy it," she said. "I can't kick, so, when I do, everyone around me cheers."

The side trains twice a week. Blaydon Barracudas, formerly known as Northern Ladies, also trains twice a week. Tuesday night is for scrummaging, passing and practising set-piece moves. Wednesday evening is primarily for fitness.

Their 25-women squad ranges in age from a 17-year-old who is still at school to a 32-year-old mother of two. The captain and No 8 is Helen Greenwell, 28, one of three police women in the side. Many of the others are students. It is Greenwell's second season of rugby, although she had previously been a rower for ten years.

"I've always enjoyed watching the game, but a friend who started playing inspired me to take it up," she said. "Rugby's a good team sport and I think you can enjoy it at whatever level of fitness you are. It also makes for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon." Women's rugby is almost always played on a Sunday, otherwise there might be a clash of pitch and changing facilities with the men.

Three quarters of an hour before the kick-off against

Wharfedale, Blaydon Barracudas were out on the field going through leg and arm exercises with Andy Ellis, their physiotherapist. 20 minutes later, having been split up into backs and forwards, they rehearsed moves with Tom Gilmore and Rob Thomson, their coaches.

"Some of the squad are very fit," Ellis said. "Others have come to the game with a basic level of fitness but with a good degree of strength and determination which we hope to build on. Fitness sometimes takes second place to the learning of the game because rugby is new to them."

THE women who play rugby at Blaydon pay a £20 subscription for the season and a £150 match fee. The social side is strong with evenings out and dances at the extremely impressive new £1.1 million clubhouse.

In wider terms women's rugby is organised in national leagues first and second divisions (Saracens, Richmond, Wasps and Leeks being four of the strongest sides), a third division with four regional leagues (North, Midlands, South East and South West),

HOW TO JOIN IN

and fourth and fifth divisions with eight regional leagues apiece.

There is a sixth division which has leagues for new clubs and there are also knock-out cup competitions.

A national development officer, Nicola Ponsford, was appointed last September. This is apparently women's rugby's first salaried post.

Last season saw the first home nations' championship involving teams from

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In March, after the 1997 championship, England will participate in the first women's seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong.

For more information on women's rugby contact 01635 278177.

For more information on Blaydon Barracudas contact 0191 371 9901.

Blackheath on January 26; England A v Scotland A: kick-off, noon; England v Scotland: kick-off 2pm. Tickets: £5.



Clean ball: both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and an open way

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the defence are attempting a trump promotion, it is sometimes necessary for them to cash their side winners first. This example arose in the match between Turkey and Belgium, in the Women's Olympiad in October.

Dealer South Game all IMPs

♦A93	♦K83	♦105
♦AQJ972	W E	♦1065
♦Q9	S	♦862
♦109		♦AJ874
		♦KQJ7642
		♦4
		♦AJ7
		♦Q5

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of clubs

At both tables South attempted Four Spades against the lead of the ten of clubs. Each East played low, and declarer won the queen, but there the play diverged. The Belgian played a heart. West took her ace, and continued clubs, and now a third round of clubs promoted a second trump trick for West. Note incidentally that if South ruffs the third club with an honour, West must discard. If she over-ruffs, she no longer makes a second trump.

The Turkish declarer played

the king of spades at trick two; the Belgian West took the ace and played a second club. In practice East overtook and continued with a low club; on which declarer discarded a losing heart; she made the contract when she guessed who had the queen of diamonds.

If East plays the ace of clubs on the third round of clubs, South can ruff high. Then she draws one more trump, and again makes the contract if she finds the queen of dia-

monds—her losing heart goes away on the king of clubs.

The correct defence is for West to cash the ace of hearts when she wins the ace of spades. Then she continues with a second club, and now the trump promotion works.

The Macallan international pairs championship 1997, in association with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1, London later this week. Session times and prices: Wednesday, January 22, 5.30-11pm, £12.50; Thursday, January 23, noon-4pm, £12.50; 5.30-11pm, £12.50; all day, £20; Friday, January 24, 12.30-6.30pm, £17.50; season ticket for all sessions £35. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Information: 0181 878 8444.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Adams ahead

Grandmaster Michael Adams, the Great Britain No 2, is engaged in a match against the top Chilean grandmaster Ivan Morovic in Santiago, Chile. After his relative setback at Hastings, Adams will be anxious to rehabilitate himself. Indeed, he got off to a good start by winning the first game.

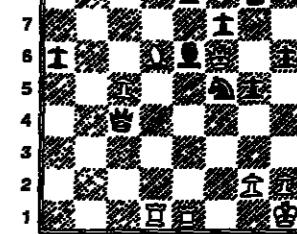
In a fashionable variation of the Sicilian Defence, Adams entered a complex middle-game and sacrificed a pawn in order to lay waste Black's camp through the firepower of the two white bishops. In the final position Black is materially down with his king hopelessly vulnerable to the combined attack of the white queen and bishop.

White: Michael Adams Black: Ivan Morovic Santiago, January 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5	g6
2 c4	c4	Ne7
3 Qb1	Qb7	Nf5
4 Nf3	Qb6	Qg5
5 Nc3	Qd5	Rd2
6 Nf3	Qd6	Qh4
7 Nc3	Qd5	Rd2
8 Nf3	Qd6	Qh4
9 Bd3	Qd5	Rd2
10 0-0	exd4	Qg5
11 Kf1	Qd6	Rd7
12 Bfd4	Qd7	Rc8
13 Qd2	Qd8	Rb8
14 Rfe1	Qd8	Rb8
15 a5	h6	Rb8
16 Bf1	Qd5	Rb8
17 a6	Qd5	Rb8
18 Nxe5	Qd6	Rb8
19 Qd2	Qd7	Rc8
20 Qd3	Qd8	Rb8
21 Bf5	Qd5	Rb8
22 Bd3	Qd6	Rb8
23 Ne4	Qd5	Rb8
24 Rad1	Qd4	Rb8
25 Nf6	Qd6	Rb8
26 Bf6	Qd5	Rb8

Diagram of final position



Withdrawal symptoms

The Dutch tournament at Wijk aan Zee has been plagued by a series of withdrawals by its star players. First Vassily Ivanchuk withdrew to be replaced by Alex Yermolinsky. Now, Gata Kamsky, the world No 7, has also dropped out with his place being taken by the Spanish grandmaster Miguel Illescas. Nigel Short remains Britain's chance for a first prize.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 0176 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HARUSPEX
 a. A lorgnette
 b. The flycatcher
 c. A fortune teller

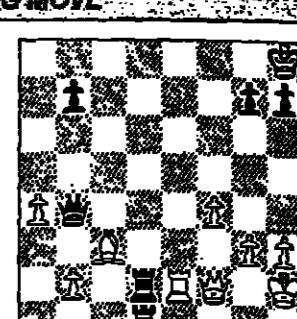
KINCOB
 a. Rich embroidery
 b. Corn on the cob
 c. Former pupil of King's

Answers on page 44

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Schneider—Oli, Podolsk 1993. Black appears to have a few difficulties as his queen and rook are attacked and his back rank is weak. What is his strongest continuation?



Solution on page 44

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- Goal
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All you need is four differently numbered tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week and the voucher, below right. Token one appears on the voucher. Simply collect another three differently numbered tokens and complete the details on the voucher. Present it with the tokens to your newsagent before Tuesday February 18. You will be entitled to one of the magazines, worth up to £2.50, free. Tokens will be printed every day this week until Saturday, January 25.

MARIE CLAIRE (£2.30) is about an attitude to life. It is a magazine that combines intelligent journalism with inspirational but accessible women's fashion. Only the issue cover-dated February applies in this offer.

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VOX (£2.40) is for people who love to read. It features the world's top writers and photographers.

GOAL (£2.40) is for the discerning reader who appreciates the quality of its photography and the insight and analysis it provides.

LOADED (£2.50) is Britain's largest men's magazine. It is packed with up-to-the-minute news and features on male interests, such as sex, sport, entertainment and politics. It is outrageous and funny. Only the issue cover-dated February applies.

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Capitalisation, week's change

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1,031.00	Bentley 2020	100	-	21	21.5
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1,031.00	Bentley 2050	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2051	100	-	21	21.5
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1,031.00	Bentley 2061	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2062	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2063	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2064	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2065	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2066	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2067	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2068	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2069	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2070	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2071	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2072	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2073	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2074	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2075	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2076	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2077	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2078	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2079	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2080	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2081	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2082	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2083	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2084	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2085	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2086	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2087	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2088	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2089	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2090	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2091	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2092	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2093	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2094	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2095	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2096	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2097	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2098	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2099	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2100	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2101	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2102	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2103	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2104	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2105	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2106	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2107	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2108	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2109	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2110	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2111	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2112	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2113	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2114	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2115	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2116	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2117	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2118	100	-	21	21.5
1,031.00	Bentley 2119				

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Investment, Budgens, Heritage Bathrooms, Majestic Wines, MBS Group. Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK vehicle output (December), UK construction survey, Bank of France money market tender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction, EU agriculture ministers council (until tomorrow).

TOMORROW

Interims: Barbour Index, China Investment Trust, Cominsco, Flights, Flights, Franklin Estates Gold Mining, Somerfield. Final: Standard International. Economic statistics: UK new construction orders (November), UK provisional M4 (December), UK balance of payments, December end-December monthly statement, UK building societies monthly figures (December), UK CBI quarterly industrial survey, Bank of England to announce interest rate (21 January 28-30), BTM/Schroder weekly US chain store sales report, Johnson Redbook weekly US chain store sales, retail sales report, US Fed Chairman's speech on economy to Senate budget committee, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills (two-year), note, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Merton Abbey, Flights, Shanxi Coal, Watson & Price, Economic statistics: UK retail sales (December), French industrial production (November), Bundesbank awards report, Trading statement: Telewest Communications.

THURSDAY

Interims: Portland Group, William Ransom. Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK British Chamber of Commerce balance survey (Q4), Japan trade surplus (December), French household consumption (December), Bundesbank central council policy meeting, Bank of France money market tender.

FRIDAY

Interims: Metthead Insurance, WF Electrical. Final: Albion. Economic statistics: none scheduled. Trading statement: J Sainsbury.

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent On Sunday: Buy Oxford Medical, Cirque, Silvermines, Presac; Hold Rentokil Initial; Sell Stanford Rook, London Observer; Buy Tesco, Sainsbury, Sunday Telegraph; Buy Guinness, Stanford Rook, Jarvis, Goldsmiths, First Leisure; Sell Tottenham Hotspur. Sunday Times: Buy Medeva; Sell Dixons, Kewill Systems, Mail On Sunday; Buy Cruden Bay, Reed Int'l, Goodwin.

COMPANIES



MARKETS

Tesco stays ahead in store wars

BRITAIN'S supermarket chains will be in the spotlight this week, with Christmas trading statements from Tesco and J Sainsbury, and financial results from Budgens and Somerfield, which will give investors an insight into the impact of the price war that is raging in the shopping aisles and supermarket petrol stations.

TESCO: The market leader is likely to have consolidated its position when it announces its trading update later today. It appears that the group has enjoyed the best trading conditions of the four major players in the run-up to Christmas. Nick Bubb, retail analyst at MeesPierson, is looking for a 7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales, excluding petrol sales.

Tesco is the biggest of the petrol retailers and will have benefited the most from any easing of the price war.

Margins will be no worse than stable, although the investment committed to the group's loyalty card makes the job of forecasting margins more difficult. For the full year brokers are looking for Tesco to raise pre-tax profits from £681 million to £745 million.

J. SAINSBURY: A different picture is likely to be painted by Britain's second-biggest food retailer on Friday. Like-for-like sales are expected to have grown 4 per cent, with the group investing heavily in its own loyalty cards, which will again muddy the water as far as margins are concerned. No doubt Sainsbury will have made every effort to recover lost ground on Tesco.



David Sainsbury, chairman of the food retailer, heading for a second profits setback although it is doubtful whether the retailer has been able to close the gap.

In the event, the group is expected to suffer its second consecutive profits setback in the current year, with brokers pencilling in profits of around

£700 million, against £764 million last time.

SOMERFIELD: Tomorrow's half-year figures from Somerfield will be the first since the group's policy of closing the profitability gap between its main competitors is on track.

as will be underlined by the results.

In spite of this, the group is likely to record a drop in the like-for-like sales growth of 3.3 per cent recorded at the time of the flotation. This is not a reflection on its trading performance, rather a series of outside factors such as lower inflation and the disruption to trading caused by its conversion of 67 stores to the Somerfield brand.

Improved efficiency and increased cost savings suggest an improvement in operating margins, from 2.82 per cent last time to 3.37 per cent. For the full year, NatWest is forecasting pre-tax profits of £103 million and a total dividend of 10.2p net.

BUDGENS: The group is continuing to experience intense competition from its bigger rivals, and its half-year figures later today are likely to reveal further pressure on margins.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at around £5 million, compared with £4.3 million for the corresponding period, with earnings per share 10 per cent ahead at 2.3p. Shareholders can look forward to a 11 per cent rise, to 0.39p, in the half-year payout.

At its last annual meeting the group reported a rise of 4.5 per cent in like-for-like sales in the first 18 weeks after the April year end. Its performance will have been enhanced by its new Freshave stores format and the acquisition of an 11,000-sq ft store in London. However, the increased investment is likely to take its toll on margins.

Share boom for resources in Australia

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

RESOURCES stocks in Australia are booming amid predictions that the sector's performance will far outpace the rest of the country's stock market in 1997.

New-found enthusiasm for resource shares sent the Australian all-ordinates index soaring through 2,400 for the first time, to end 1996 at a high of 2,424.60. The index has since edged up further, ending last week at 2,435.5.

Australian analysts say that investors are scrabbling to jump aboard the resources train for three main reasons: the promise of a big step-up in exploration activity in 1997; the likelihood of a sharp rise in mineral prices; and the chance of a much stronger world economy this year.

The fact that Australia's industrial sector is widely believed to be going nowhere over the next few months has only added to the appeal. A survey of the country's ten leading broking firms reveals that the resources sector is expected to gain 8 per cent over the year, compared with a 4 per cent gain for industrial stocks.

Ray Chanty, director of minerals at First Pacific, the broker, said: "I can't remember a time when there's been a more exciting period than the one we're going into. There's a huge force behind exploration right now, with the three or four major companies spending large sums of money."

Another analyst says expansion and new projects will be the key to 1997: "The big opportunity we see in

that area are in the diversified resources stocks such as BHP, North, KTZ-CRA and to some extent MIM. It is the new projects that each has got that generate sustained earnings."

Australia's gold sector has enjoyed a frenzy of its own after a surprise discovery in the largely unexplored Gawler Craton region in South Australia by Helix, a junior exploration company. News of strong drilling results drove Helix shares from 45 cents to A\$4.15 in a few days and has led to a mad rush among investors for shares in other exploration companies with land in the region.

Robin Widdup, head of mining research at JB Were and Son, the broker, said: "These discoveries in the Gawler Craton are equivalent to finding a whole new country inside of Australia. This is the honest place around, including internationally."

The prospect of rising mineral prices is also whetting appetites for resource stocks. JB Were, for example, forecast a 50 per cent jump in the price of nickel to US\$4.45 and a 30 per cent rise in the zinc price to 61 cents in the coming year.

More cynical voices say the market's sudden enthusiasm for resource stocks has less to do with fundamentals and more to do with the fact that it is the start of a brand new year. Says one analyst: "People tend to be more optimistic at the start of a new year. January's always good for resources stocks; I can't remember a bad one."

months. The week will see publication of the latest M3 money supply figures, which should show a deceleration in growth. An IFO survey of economic activity is also expected.

There will also be some interest in tomorrow's testimony on the economy by the Semi-Budget Committee by

Outside Britain, the focus will fall on Germany, where the Bundesbank is holding its December meeting. The central bank's renewed speculation about a possible drop in German interest rates in the next few

JANET BUSH

Pointers to the Chancellor's actions over interest rates

incomes. The week will see publication of

market forecasts for a modest rise of 0.3 per cent in retail sales volumes, compared with November's increase of 0.7 per cent.

The caution of these forecasts comes after rather disappointing evidence on December retail sales from the CBI and the British Retail Consortium.

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Bazaar way to do business fulfils Eastern promise

The rise of the new retail emperors is charted by Carl Mortished

On the edge of the Taklimakan desert in the Chinese province of Sinkiang there is a town called Kashgar. A dusty, unattractive place, cursed with some vile Chinese concrete bunker buildings, Kashgar was once important. For thousands of years it was an oasis and trading post; caravans from the West brought gold, wool, precious stones and glass. These were exchanged for goods arriving from the East: furs, lacquer, ceramics, weapons and, of course, silk.

Like every great bazaar or shopping centre, the success of Kashgar was its location, linking Samarkand and routes to Europe with China to the east and India to the south. In the jargon of today's retailers, Kashgar had a high footfall and was on a caravan route, or in today's language, a motorway.

In Britain, there is disagreement about whether we are in a retail boom. Shopkeepers report mixed results. But if there is still gloom among the traders of cloth and leather, the owners of the bazaars have become the new retailing emperors. Shopping centres, the concrete and glass blocks that house the silk and leather merchants are fetching enormous prices and their owners are becoming very rich. The shares of shopping centre owners have soared — in the space of a year, Capital Shopping Centres, which owns Lakeside in Essex and the Metro Centre in Gateshead, has risen from 26p to 38p. Chelfield, which owns the Merry Hill centre in Dudley, is up more than 80 per cent.

Owners of retail bazaars are now worth much more than the net value of the underlying buildings. Every sale of a shopping centre brings a new benchmark in valuation. This month, Marks & Spencer put a fitter-box under the market, buying the Gyle centre in Edinburgh for £122 million. M&S had a trump card, a pre-emption right on the centre and whisked the property from under the noses of Universities Superannuation Fund. The bids reflected rents of £65 per sq ft for Zone A, the first 30 feet of a retail unit. But, according to Peter Smolka, investment partner at Hillier Parker, which sold the centre for Edinburgh City Council,



The Lakeside centre in Essex has helped to boost the share price of its owners



Success at the Metro Centre reflects the popularity of the new shopping outlets

the bidders were factoring in substantial rental growth. "My own opinion is that they must have been working on the basis of a £130 Zone A." Why should rents rise so much when retailers are still fighting for every customer? To answer the question, it is worth thinking again about bazaars. In the 1970s and

1980s, middle-class England fled from cities to suburbs and retailers followed them. Shoppers liked the huge malls on motorways and retailers liked the captive audiences. So busy were the shops that property developers confidently hooked retailers on turnover rents, linking the cost of the floorspace to the money flowing into the tills. While the bazaars on the motorways flourished, the town centres died for want of custom. With such a profusion of goods available in one place, shoppers saw no reason to tramp down the high street. Decay set in and the townsfolk demanded an end to the construction of more bazaars. The

Government responded and a new planning guideline, PPG6, virtually rules out more shopping centres on Britain's caravan routes.

For those already being built, such as Trafford Park near Manchester, or the 1.6 million sq ft Bluewater Park in Kent, the prohibition is good news. Less competition means a shortage of centres for retailers seeking space, and investors seeking a home for their money. Even while shopkeepers struggle, rents in good centres rise. As in all bazaars, successful traders attract imitators and the competition for good locations is intense. The Gyle centre has 100 retailers knocking at its door.

Institutions are again interested in property after several years of suspicion bred of the last property crash. Funds, flush with cash, can contemplate spending more than £100 million on a single asset, shrugging off any thought of risk with the knowledge that the income from a single shopping centre really comprises more than 100 incomes from separate traders.

For the merchants sipping tea in their offices in the soul, property is becoming an issue. Soaring rents pose a threat to profit margins and could even raise concerns about cashflow should trading turn down as it did in the last recession. The richest of them have responded by buying up their premises where they can. Hence the purchase of the Gyle, where M&S has bought the 300,000 sq ft centre to secure its position. Other retailers are buying property, including Carpetright and Burton Group, which last year purchased a flagship store at Oxford Circus in London.

In Southampton, the bidding is in progress for a huge centre shopping centre project owned by Imry, the company that was shuffled into the Barclays Bank vaults in the last property crash. Barclays is now selling the company and at least three companies, CSC, Chelfield and British Land are eyeing up the Southampton asset.

Could shopping centres last as long as the market in Kashgar or the covered bazaar in Istanbul? Many were built in the 1980s and over the next few years will begin to look tired.

Lacking the pedigree of 2,000 years of trading, Britain's bazaars need glitz and glitz to keep the loyalty of shoppers and those retailers who choose to buy their roof may find the investment goes far beyond the initial hefty outlay. However, there is no shortage of adventurers — the silk route traders risked more than their money bringing cloth to the market. If the location is right, some trader will always set up his stall.

Frank le Duc on the regional press

The press barons who are proud to be provincial

Who could possibly want to buy a dying business — one that some people doubt will survive for much longer than a decade? A business such as local newspapers.

The sector is breathing its last, according to some doubters, and is about to be supplanted by new media gods, such as the Internet, electronic publishing and the proliferation of local radio and TV stations.

If actions speak louder than words, sceptics can point to the traditional regional press barons. Some plundered the collection plate and left titles in the graveyard.

Hours after Westminster Press was sold, Frank Barlow, then managing director of Pearson, the vendor, called WP "a domestic business in long-term decline".

This was no distress sale. WP made a £25 million operating profit from sales of £143 million in the previous year, and, according to Mr Barlow, had "probably the highest trading margins in the industry".

Was he right to sell? If the judgment of the media sector's high priests is any guide, it would seem so. The trend is away from old-fashioned local papers and towards specialist magazines, TV, radio and new media. The Internet is fashionable, if not yet a profitable method of publishing.

Pearson sold WP within months of Emap's exit from the sector, hot on the heels of disposals by Reed and The Thomson Corporation. The long-term commitment of United News & Media, another leading regional publisher, is doubted by some observers. Of the top five regional publishers two years ago, only Northcliffe, part of Daily Mail and General Trust, seems truly committed to remaining a significant force in the sector.

Alec Davidson, Northcliffe's managing director, said: "We happen to believe there is a long-term business called national and regional newspapers — thank God!"

"It may be a domestic business in a mature phase, but what we are seeking to do is to use that as a strength, both for its own long-term position and to develop new businesses out of it."

The new giants, such as Newsquest, Trinity and Johnston Press, are dedicated provincial publishers.

Anthony de Larrinaga,

media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said the sector reached a watershed when Northcliffe bought the *Nottingham Evening Post* for £93 million two years ago. The Department of Trade and Industry overruled the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's objections.

A wave of buying and selling followed. The sector has seen its biggest change since the advent of free newspapers, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

He said: "We are an information business. It would be very hard for someone to come in here and gather as much information as we can, both in editorial and advertising terms. They might as well come to us. We're interested in content, not in owning the tubes down which the information is squeezed."

Midland Independent Newspapers, is typical of the new breed of regional publishers. His core business consists of *The Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail*, and the *Evening Telegraph*.

In the past few years it has launched Birmingham Live, a joint venture cable TV channel; it has started supplying news to radio stations taken on an exhibitions business, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

Mr de Larrinaga said publishers had suffered from duplicated costs in an industry that was too fragmented.

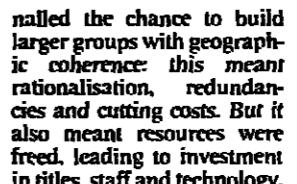
The Nottingham deal sig-

ned the start of a new breed

Oakley: new breed



Oakley: new breed



Brown: loving care

The buying and selling continues — if not on the same scale as the WP deal. Venture capitalists, who look for good growth and strong cashflow, have kept faith with the sector.

After TV, the regional press still attracts more advertising spending than any other medium — including national newspapers.

The long-term decline that Mr Barlow described casts quite a shadow. Poor circulation is the most worrying symptom, indicative of the newspaper equivalent of scurvy — undernourished titles starved of investment. Although it accounts for a shrinking proportion of total revenues, it is telling that advertisers are prepared to buy a paper.

One of the first statements by Jim Brown, Newsquest's chief executive, after buying WP's titles was that they would be shown some tender loving care. He told the MMC that his acquisition needed investment and would receive it.

If the MMC feared the prospect of less competition, a number of proprietors could point to the explosion of local TV and radio channels as well as the threat posed by new media. Chris Oakley, chief executive of

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Pensioners bonds lead Savings rush

BY ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

RETAILERS may have had a quiet Christmas than they expected, but the month of December saw unusually high demand for National Savings accounts and bonds.

National Savings said that it was on target to raise £4.5 billion, the amount it is required to contribute to Government funding in the 1996/97 financial year.

Total sales of all National Savings products were £779 million. After repayments of £710 million and accrued interest of £124 million, the net contribution to Government funding was £193 million.

Best sellers were pensioners' bonds, in which £123 million was invested during the month, and Premium Bonds, which attracted £98 million.

This sum was increased from £3 billion in the last

Budget.

With effect from start of business on 20th January 1997 the interest rate set out below becomes applicable to all Practice Call Accounts whatever the balance.

Practice Call Account

Rate per Annum

GROSS% GROSS C.A.R.%

4.5% 4.58%

TSB We want you to say YES

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly. Minimum balance £2,000. The above interest rate applies to all sites.
 TSB Bank plc Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 5BZ.
 TSB Bank Scotland plc Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LN.

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
Consolidated Income Statement
for the year ended 31 December 1996

	For the year ended 31 Dec 1996	For the year ended 31 Dec 1995	For the year ended 31 Dec 1994
Revenue	11,384	8,850	12,973
Income from investments	1,478	—	6,531
Interest received	302	89	270
Sundry revenue	4	—	19
	13,168	8,949	19,593
Expenditure	2,086	1,918	4,039
Administration and general	1,511	977	2,357
Exploration	775	850	2,276
Interest paid	—	91	192
	11,082	7,031	21,165
Profit before tax	—	—	—
Tax	—	—	—
Profit after tax	11,082	7,031	21,165
Earnings per share - cents	36	25	60
Dividends - per share - cents	17	17	52
- absorbing - R100	5,208	5,208	15,930
- times covered	2.1	1.0	1.3

*Unaudited

NOTES:

1. Final Dividend: Dividend No. 91 of 53 cents per ordinary share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R10,722,000, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.

2. Prospects: Good growth in earnings was achieved in the period under review largely as a result of improved dividends from the Group's gold mining investments and a surplus on the realisation of investments. If the gold price, however, remains at its present depressed level, earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to be lower.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND: Dividend No. 92 of 17 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

75 Fox Street
Johannesburg
2001

17 January 1997

	At 31 Dec 1996	At 31 Dec 1995	At 31 Dec 1994
Investments	168,113	167,504	167,729
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net current assets/(liabilities)	2,518	11,217	12,072
Current assets	3,474	3,442	3,818
Cash	3,862	—	5,059
Other			

Last-ditch defence at Wm Cook

William Cook, the castings company, yesterday raised its profits forecast in a last-ditch effort to stave off a £60 million takeover bid from Triplex Lloyd.

The company predicted that profits for the year to the end of March would be at least £11 million, a rise of 30 per cent. The company also forecast a 44 per cent rise in the total dividend to £3p. Cook said that the forecast had improved because of a big jump in production and orders in November and December.

Andrew Cook, chairman, added that the company should continue to advance and repeated his call for Triplex to issue a trading forecast of its own.

But Graham Lockyer, chief executive of Triplex, criticised the defence document for focusing on an "immortal" rise in forecast profits, adding that the dividend remained below the level paid in 1991.

Triplex has until this Saturday to raise its offer, currently worth about 30p a share. Analysts predict that Triplex will raise its offer to between 340p and 400p a share.

William Cook shares closed up 4p at 370p on Friday, valuing the company at £69 million, while Triplex shares closed at 20p. The final closing date for acceptance of the offer is February 8.

Negative equity fall

The house price recovery continues to rescue more households from negative equity, according to the Woolwich Building Society. Those owing more on their mortgages than the value of their homes dropped by 755,000 in 1996 to 405,000, the lowest level since the first half of 1990.

The largest falls were in Greater London and the South East, with declines of 135,000 and 190,000 respectively.

BP signs \$1bn gas deal with Germans

By MARTIN BARROW

BP WILL today announce that it has signed a \$1 billion agreement to supply North Sea gas to Ruhrgas of Germany. The deal will take gas from the North Sea to continental Europe via the \$450 million interconnector pipeline, now under construction, from the Norfolk coast to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Rodney Chase, chief executive of BP Exploration, said: "This is a landmark gas supply deal for BP as it represents our first sale into continental Europe and our first use of the capacity we own in the interconnector pipeline. It underscores the substantial and growing importance of BP's exploration and production portfolio in gas."

The company also announced that since the restructuring of its marketing activities in the UK last August its share of the UK commercial and industrial market has more than doubled to 15 per cent and its combined sales of

Mr Chase said: "BP has played a major role in creating the link between the gas networks of the UK and continental Europe, and this deal is the confirmation of the opportunities that now exist for UK gas trading on a Europe-wide basis.

In the longer term such a link will enhance the security of gas supplies and maintain the growing importance of gas as a fuel source."

BP's gas reserves are among the largest in the North Sea. BP Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary, annually supplies approximately 10 billion cubic metres of gas to the UK industrial, commercial, power and spot markets, and wholesale to British Gas.

Ruhrgas is one of the largest gas importers in the world. Its primary activity is associated with gas purchasing, transmission, storage and sales, with an annual gas endowment to around 60 billion cubic metres.

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Robert Greig, Callaway UK sales marketing manager, with some of the fake golf heads

Cadbury sale to Coke likely to satisfy EU

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE EUROPEAN Commission is expected this week to clear Cadbury's £700 million sale of its stake in a UK bottling venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises, with no strings attached.

The Commission had been examining the competition implications of Cadbury's sale of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages

(CCSB) but is believed to have concluded that the deal will make no fundamental difference to the bottling market. Coca-Cola company is also selling its 49 per cent stake in the venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises. Richard Branson, of Virgin, has announced his intention to pursue a separate complaint about CCSB's discounting policies.

Callaway drive to halt fake golf clubs

By ADAM FRESCO

IT IS a picture that will break the heart of every golfer in the country — tens of thousands of pounds worth of golf clubs with the famous Callaway design being destroyed.

Callaway believed that the hundreds of drivers and fairway woods were just not up to their usual standard — and found that they were copies, part of an illegal trade that is costing millions of pounds.

A batch of the clubs, weighing eight tonnes, were seized when Callaway Golf won a High Court victory against Rata and Rata. Callaway was awarded £100,000 in costs and £300,000 in damages against Rata, which was selling clubs that had the "specific features" of Callaway's Big Bertha Metal Woods and Irons from stores at business parks.

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a reprocessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

Company profits back to strength

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROFITS earned by UK companies have returned to their highest level since the beginning of the recession in 1991, according to a report published today by CCN Group.

Corporate profitability rose from 11.5 per cent to 12.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1996 as better consumer confidence began to take hold. David Coates, director of CCN Group, said the improvement looked likely to be sustained in 1997 as manufacturing continued to respond to improved consumer confidence.

But he said that weak investment and a lack of liquidity in some sectors, including the chemicals and transport industries, could cause some companies problems if interest rates rise

sharply. Average pre-tax profit margins rose to 7.8 per cent, their highest since 1991.

Best third-quarter corporate performance was in leisure and hotels, where average return on capital employed increased by over a quarter to 11.7 per cent.

Oil, up from 5.9 per cent to 7.7 per cent, and food manufacturing, where returns on capital increased from 12 per cent to 14.5 per cent, were also good performers.

Building and construction profitability remained weakest, falling from 1.92 per cent to 1.8 per cent.

Other weak performing sectors included printing, paper and packaging (profitability down from 14.6 per cent to 12.9 per cent) and breweries (return on capital 10.9 per cent against 12 per cent).

Unions see drawbacks of inward investment

By OLIVER AUGUST

The main reason is Britain's low cost base and the flexibility of its workforce.

But unions believe that flexibility means foreign companies can leave the UK just as easily as they have set up in the UK. Roger Butler, executive councillor of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, is negotiating with Ford over its decision to sack 1,500 workers at its Halewood plant on Merseyside. He said: "Sacking is cheap here, much cheaper than on the Continent."

"When TWA had to cut back by 10 per cent they found the cost of redundancies so prohibitive abroad, they bounced all the cuts to London." Fears over the downside of inward investment have also

reached the TUC. Chris Savage, a trade policy specialist, said: "There is a danger of investment flowing out as well as in. The TUC is, however, in favour of all investments that create new jobs."

Stephen Barrett, the KPMG partner responsible for the survey, said: "Overall the positive aspects outweigh the negative."

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a reprocessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

THE INNTPRENEUR BEER SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Montrose House, Chertsey Boulevard, Hanworth Lane, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9JX.

Tel: 01932 570265. Fax: 01932 566703.

SUPPLY OF BEER TO CERTAIN TIED HOUSES OWNED BY SPRING INNS LIMITED

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited for the right to supply beer to 500 licensed premises owned by Spring Inns Limited on behalf of The Innpreneur Beer Supply Company Limited (TIBSCO) or another wholly-owned subsidiary of Foster's Brewing Group Limited of Australia (FBG) nominated by TIBSCO.

TIBSCO has the right to supply (or nominate the supplier of) certain types of beer (tied products) to tenants of the licensed premises. TIBSCO (or the nominee) will agree to purchase beer from the successful tenderer and will appoint the successful tenderer as its agent to supply beer to those tenants.

The tender process has been initiated pursuant to binding undertakings dated 11 August 1995 given to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to Section 75G of the Fair Trading Act 1973, modified on 24 December 1996, in connection with the sale of the Courage beer business to Scottish & Newcastle plc.

Written expressions of interest from potential tenderers are to be sent to Mr Robin Hammond at TIBSCO to arrive no later than 5 pm on 23 January 1997. Interested parties will then be required to enter into a confidentiality undertaking and will then be given the documents on the basis of which tenders are to be submitted.

The timetable for the tender process is as follows:

Expressions of interest

23 January 1997

Confidentially undertaking received and thereafter tender documents provided.

26 January 1997

Tenders submitted

14 February 1997

Notification of successful tenderer

By 17 February 1997

Execution of Supply Agreement

Immediately thereafter

Commencement of Supply

1 March 1997

Tenders will be required to be made for 100% of the tied products for each licensed premises.

Training budgets increase

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COMPANIES are generally lifting their budgets for training, but the proportion of the wages bill spent on equipping employees with new skills fell last year, says a survey by the Industrial Society.

Cash spent on training in 1996 slipped as a percentage of the wages bill from 3.66 per cent to 2.94 per cent. While part of the decline could be explained by higher wages, the society said it could mean that employers are concentrating training investment on key employees to the detriment of part-timers, freelances, other non-permanent staff and operations that have been outsourced.

However, the society was critical of selective training. Andrew Forrest, human resources director, said: "Employees who feel undervalued as second class citizens will not be as committed to their work or deliver the sort of high performance employers want from them."

Overall training as a share of company turnover rose 1.2 per cent. But an effort to tackle the costs of training meant that spending per capita fell to £370 from £384. Although training costs are often high, more employers are now grouping together to block-buy training to reduce the expense.

THE INNTPRENEUR BEER SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Annual Report for the six months ended 30 December 1996

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		
	6 months ended 31 Dec 1996 R'000	6 months ended 31 Dec 1995 R'000
Revenue	7 633	6 828
Income from rent and sale of property	7 633	6 828
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	9	257
Income from other sources	446	932
Income from investments	737	644
Interest received	533	538
	9 348	7 789
Expenditure	3 331	2 408
Administration and general	2 316	2 337
Interest paid	15	16
	3 331	2 408
Profit before tax	1 017	6 781
Tax	2 616	2 732
Profit after tax	4 401	4 247

	6 months ended 31 Dec 1996 R'000	6 months ended 31 Dec 1995 R'000
Share capital	256	256
Reserves	85 303	82 158
Deferred liabilities and provisions	3 432	2 425
	88 991	84 819
Investments	44 604	37 253
- Market value	32 447	25 221
- Excess over book value	12 157	12 032
- Book value	3	3
Unlisted - Book value	3	3
Shares in issue unchanged at 10 224 350	1 674	1 541
Ner asset (s) valued) per share - cents	1 664	1 664

*Unaudited

NOTES:

1. Dividends.

A dividend No. 148 of 50 cents per share, in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R 307 305.00, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.

The interim dividend of 25 cents per share declared today for the six months ended 31 December 1996 is not comparable with the other dividends reflected above because of the change in financial year end. The last interim dividend, declared in respect of the six months ended 30 June 1995, was 20 cents per share.

2. Prospects.

Earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to at least maintain at the level achieved in the six months to December 1996.

DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 148 of 25 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 26 February 1997, or where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 25 February 1997.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 8 February to 14 February 1997, inclusive.

5 Fox Street
Johannesburg
2001

17 January 1997

The Chancellor served notice on the interest rate gloom-mongers last week. He said that the strength of sterling was "the key thing" behind his decision not to raise interest rates. Since sterling is set to remain strong, talk of rates of 7 per cent or more by the end of the year will probably prove overly pessimistic. Although the gilt market is not out of the woods yet, the bears' picnic is unlikely to last beyond the election.

The Chancellor's emphasis on sterling was a clear snub to the Bank of England. The Treasury is plainly placing more weight than the Bank on the view that sterling's strength will hold down inflation.

Back in November, the Bank went out of its way in its *Inflation Report* to cast doubt on the anti-inflationary consequences of sterling's strength. At the time, Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist, said: "We should not set an easier monetary policy now because of sterling's strength."

The argument was that since sterling's strength partly reflected expectations of higher interest rates, failure to raise rates would prompt sterling to fall. Indeed, this line of reasoning led the Bank to argue

Strong sterling is paving way for rally in UK bonds

that sterling's strength was "probably temporary".

Yet two months on, sterling has risen a further 7 per cent against the mark. Moreover, the decision not to raise rates last week did it no harm.

Unfortunately, the disinflationary benefits of sterling's strength, evident for some time in producer prices, are only just starting to come through at retail level. In the meantime, the Bank and the markets, will continue to fret about the strength of the domestic economy.

Accelerating consumer spending, plummeting unemployment, rising house prices and ballooning monetary growth add up to a potent case for higher rates. As if that were not enough, uncertainty surrounding the general election may be reason in itself for buyers to shy away from gilt-edged.

However, looking a little further ahead, sterling's strength helps to paint a brighter picture. By mid-

year, retail price inflation may embark on a solid downward trend.

The benign influences of producer

price inflation at a 30-year low and falling import prices should set it fall into the target range of 2.5 per cent or less by the end of the year.

By then, economic growth may be cooling off. As with inflation, sterling's strength will play a vital role

GILT-EDGED

On a trade-weighted basis, sterling has risen 16 per cent in the past year, substantially eroding UK producers' price competitiveness. Tomorrow's CBI survey may show some of the damage that this has done to export orders. However, the full impact on the trade balance will not be clear until later in the year.

Sadly for the Chancellor, sterling's strength is unlikely to be enough on

its own to cool the economy down. Although it cannot be entirely ruled out, he will be lucky to entirely escape the clutches of the higher interest rate lobby. Yet – in spite of buoyant incomes and falling unemployment – heavy indebtedness and the still-pervasive sense of job insecurity suggest that even a half-point rise in interest rates could dampen spending dramatically.

However, higher interest rates are not the only alternative. Indeed,

the situation cries out not for a monetary policy tightening, but a fiscal policy tightening. The risk in raising interest rates is that sterling will be pushed higher still, creating a disproportionate squeeze on exporters. By contrast, a fiscal tightening would bear more heavily on the buoyant domestic economy.

On this, the Treasury and the Bank seem to be closer together. Even back in November, Mervyn King suggested that "there must be

a concern that if this exchange rate persists there will be a growing imbalance between domestic and export demand". Sterling's subsequent rally will have heightened such concern, and the prospect of further German interest rate cuts suggests that sterling will stay well above November's level.

Tightening fiscal policy is obviously off the agenda this side of a general election. Crucially, this will not be so after the election, even if current income tax rates remain sacrosanct. If Labour wins, there is a good chance of an early fiscal tightening in a snap budget soon after the election.

This would not only forestall the need for further interest rate rises, but would also accelerate the fall in public sector borrowing. A £4 billion fiscal tightening should ensure a PSBR in 1997-98 of £15 billion, £4 billion less than the official forecast.

So the gilt market can no longer afford to ignore sterling. Although the impact on the economy and policy may not be clear yet, its strength is laying the foundations for gilt to rally later in the year.

MARK CLIFFE
HSBC Markets

A programme set in stone

Material World. Radio 3, 9.00pm.

I daresay most of us could have survived to a ripe old age without anyone inventing the term "built environment", which raises the question of what is the unbuilt environment and whether, for those who believe in God, any part of the environment is unbuilt. An issue, perhaps, for *The Moral Maze*. Meanwhile the question for *Material World* concerns the nature of the materials we take for granted, and a most fascinating exercise this new series promises to be. The first subject is stone, from Roman temples in Lebanon to the new Hindu temple in north London. The series features poetic as well as architectural rhapsodising.

Grandkinder. Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm.

Those of us who enjoy football in spite of a disadvantage – being brought up on Plymouth Argyle – are rarely troubled by the absolute requirement to hear a radio programme, so I hope that mentioning this unusual occurrence will not seem self-indulgent. By the sort of miracle that makes football a game of chance, Plymouth reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup in 1984. All sport is made great by its capacity to induce nostalgia and this series proves that through the voices of those who contrived their 15 (or 90) minutes of fame. It also makes wider points about the fragility of football management: Johnny Hoare, manager at the time, appears in tonight's programme. He was sacked the following season. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 John Peel's Classic Radio 1 Sessions. Last in the series 10.00am Radio 12.00 Claire Oliver 4.00pm Civic Warmer, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Stuart Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Radio 2 8.00am Breakfast 9.00am Young 1.30pm Double Thruster 3.00pm Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Leycock with Dance Band Days and Big Band Era 8.00 Big Band Special 8.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 The Michael Andretti Preview extracts from his autobiography (441) 10.30 The Jameson Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Mutterack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 British Today 13.00 Outlook 1.15 Sport 2.30 Meridian Feature 4.30 Europe Today

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 The Times 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The Moral Maze 8.30 Words of Faith 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 Omnibus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kenshaw 2.05 Outback 2.30 John Peel 3.00 Sport 4.15 The Moral Maze 4.30 Sport 4.45 Britain Today 4.50 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 5.50 Quicks 7.00 quote 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multicast 8.00 World Business Report 8.15 BBC English 10.00 Claire Oliver 10.45 Music to Listen 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Mutterack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 British Today 13.00 Outlook 1.15 Sport 2.30 Meridian Feature 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.30 Europe Today

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Programme 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.30 The Magazine, with Carolyn Quinn 12.30 Midday with Mel, includes 12.35 Moneycheck 2.05 Rusee on 4.00 The Saturday Show 5.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Glastonbury 8.00 Choice 8.00 The Monday Match: West Ham v Leeds United. Presented by Eleanor Oldroyd 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, with Lucy Thomas 12.00am The Hour, with Michael Neary 1.00am Adrian Faghan 3.00 Steve Madden

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warmer 7.00 Radio 4 Breakfast 7.30 London 8.00 London 9.00 London 10.00 London 11.00 London 12.00 London 1.00pm Jenny Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks 7.00 Mark Forrest 2.00pm Randal Lee Rose

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Miles Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Suzanne Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concert 3.00 Classical Concerto 3.00 Jeanne Christie 7.00 Newsnight 7.30 Sonata Chamber (Piano Sonata in C minor, Op. 21) 8.00 Evening Concert, Faure (Preludes et Melodies) — Suite, Lucy Thompson 12.00am The Hour, with Lucy Thompson 1.00am Michael Neary 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Rules 'n' Riffs 6.00 Breakfast 6.30 Breakfast 6.45 Breakfast 7.00 Breakfast 7.30 Breakfast 8.00 Breakfast 8.30 Breakfast 9.00 Breakfast 9.30 Breakfast 10.00 Breakfast 10.30 Breakfast 11.00 Breakfast 11.30 Breakfast 12.00 Breakfast 1.00pm Jenny Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks 7.00 Mark Forrest 2.00pm Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am Off Air: Mozart (Symphony No. 39 in C, K388); Dulcis (Piano Concerto); Rachmaninov (Schatz); in D; 7.00 Morning Collection; Catton Young introduces Mendelssohn piano concertos 10.00 Mendelssohn Encounters: Mendelssohn (Overture for wind instruments); Listz (Piano Sonata No. 2); 12.00 Composers of the Week: C.P.E. Bach and Quantz 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert: Live from St John's, Smith Square, London; Lucy, Gould, Lucy-Gold, violin; Martin Storey, cello and Greta Dowdwell, piano, perform Beethoven (Variations on Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu); Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No. 3); 2.00 News: Present Stephen Hough, piano; BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mervin Wiglesworth (7) 3.45 Voices (7) 5.00 Musical Miscellany (7) 5.30 Tommy Pearson talks to... Ahneesh Sharon Freeman about... 1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

6.30am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Environment 6.55 8.30 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. With 7.00s columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests

10.00 News: Big Bang (FM) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 Today in Parliament (LW) 10.20 Woman's Day (LW) 10.30 Money Box Live

11.00 News: Briefing (LW) 11.15 Weather 11.30 Weather 12.00 Weather 1.00pm Weather 1.15 Weather 1.30 Weather 1.45 Weather 1.55 Weather 2.00pm Weather 2.15 Weather 2.30 Weather 2.45 Weather 2.55 Weather 3.00pm Weather 3.15 Weather 3.30pm Weather 3.45 Weather 3.55 Weather 4.00pm Weather 4.15 Weather 4.30pm Weather 4.45 Weather 4.55 Weather 5.00pm Weather 5.15 Weather 5.30pm Weather 5.45 Weather 5.55 Weather 6.00pm Weather 6.15 Weather 6.30pm Weather 6.45 Weather 6.55 Weather 7.00pm Weather 7.15 Weather 7.30pm Weather 7.45 Weather 7.55 Weather 8.00pm Weather 8.15 Weather 8.30pm Weather 8.45 Weather 8.55 Weather 8.60pm Weather 8.75 Weather 8.90pm Weather 9.05pm Weather 9.20pm Weather 9.35pm Weather 9.50pm Weather 10.05pm Weather 10.20pm Weather 10.35pm Weather 10.50pm Weather 10.65pm Weather 10.80pm Weather 10.95pm Weather 11.10pm Weather 11.25pm Weather 11.40pm Weather 11.55pm Weather 12.10pm Weather 12.25pm Weather 12.40pm Weather 12.55pm Weather 1.00am Weather 1.15am Weather 1.30am 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A weekend with the lads is a mixed blessing

Martin Bashir is generally considered to have handled his interview with the Princess of Wales pretty well, so it was encouraging to see him in more pedestrian form during *Tony Bulimore: The Great Survivor* (BBC1, Friday). Had he, inquired Bashir politely, ever seriously thought he might die?

The nation paused while it considered the facts. Boat broken and upside down in stormy Southern Ocean ... porthole smashed, so boat filling with water ... thousands of miles from land ... very cold and part of little finger hanging off. Given the outlook, what sort of reply did Bashir expect? "No, never crossed my mind?" Bulimore, however, was gentle with him — yes he had seriously thought about dying. In fact, it was right up there on his "Things To Do Next" list.

Bulimore was lucky, doubly lucky. Not only was he rescued but

he did all the difficult surviving bit by himself, which means no one else can challenge his version of events and that when the inevitable film is made he will be played by the prettiest actor. The problems start only when more than one person survives an ordeal, as we discovered in *The Place of the Dead* (ITV, Saturday). We were off to Low's Gully. Low's where?

A helpful screengrab of information helped those of us with poor memories. February 1994, British Army, Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia. Suddenly it all came rushing back. Ah, that Low's Gully, the one where those soldiers got lost. But wait, there was still another paragraph to read. "Some scenes, characters and dialogue have been created for the purposes of dramatisation." Now that was definitely familiar. It also explained the beautiful girl who emerged from a waterfall during the second hour, clad only in a very

wet dress. For the purposes of dramatisation — of course.

The film was based on an account written by Corporal Hugh Brittan, which meant that he got to be played by Greg Wise and be generally heroic and the others... well, rightly or wrongly, they didn't. The one crucial exception was Lance Corporal Richard Mayfield, who despite (or perhaps because of) his uncertain goodie/baddie status was played by Dougray Scott, an actor who, under an Army regulation haircut and thick layer of jungle mud, could easily be Wise's twin brother. This made keeping up with who said what to whom rather difficult — which was a shame, because it was important.

The good things about the film were the jungle, the waterfalls (with or without fantasy females) and some competently authentic acting. The bad things were its

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

endless length, an inexplicable interest in dead blackbirds and an almost complete absence of tension. We knew what happened in the end and, as Jeff Pope's screenplay had little new to say about why it happened, the whole thing became rather tedious. These dramatisations are all the vogue at the moment (it beats having to pay real writers to make something up), but they must offer some fresh

insight if interest is to be sustained rather than suspended.

It was about now that the full implications of what was rapidly becoming a *Boys' Own* weekend became clear. I hadn't seen a woman on television for hours — not a proper one anyway. The weekend, you see, post-Bulimore and Bashir, had continued unwillingly with an hour in the company of Craig Charles, an actor who, by some strange twist of television fate, has two male ensemble comedies running on BBC2 and Channel 4 on Friday evening almost at the same time. If jokes about farting, body parts and having sex with sheep are your thing, then you probably know all about *Red Dwarf* (BBC2) and *Captain Butler* (Channel 4) already. Never mind new lads, this is the sad lad zone.

The similarities between the two series are astonishing. Both are period pieces — one set in the

science-fiction future, the other in the pirate past. Both have entirely male casts, although a last-minute change of episode did bring a mermaid into *Captain Butler*. Out went all the sex with sheep jokes and in came all the sex with fish jokes. Sophisticated stuff.

One final similarity is that Charles plays the same role in both which, regardless of scene or century, is basically stereotyped Liverpudian. So, when the Starbug's reserves of poppadums and chicken vindaloo are destroyed, as they were in the first episode of *Red Dwarf*, he — in this case Lister — took it very badly. Mind you, there was worse: the lager coppered it too. The crew suggested a minute's flounce as a mark of respect. Oh, please.

Despite such lamentable comic banter, *Red Dwarf* is the faster, sharper and cleverer of the two (although you'd have to see *Cap-*

tain Butler to appreciate why). Travelling back in time in search of new curry supplies was hardly ground-breaking stuff, but persuading President Kennedy to shoot himself from the grassy knoll (thus guaranteeing immortality as a liberal icon) was close. "It'll drive the conspiracy theorists mad." Best line of a poor night.

Still no women. I turned to *Arena: Dear Antonioni* (BBC2). After all, I'm a big fan of *Blow-Up*, so that makes me a big fan of Antonioni, right? Wrong, as I discovered after 90 tortuous minutes of an Italian-made film that illustrated perfectly the vast cultural divide between film criticism on this side of the English Channel and the other. What liking *Blow-Up* makes me is another poor fool who dreamt of driving around London in a convertible Rolls-Royce and coveting with photographic models. One more for the sad lad zone, then.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (71827)
7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (92223)
8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (4645049)
9.20 ALL OVER THE SHOP (680322)
9.45 KILROY (680575)
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (11285)
11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (610827)
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (172484)
11.45 SMILIE'S PEOPLE (6985594)
12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7798546)
12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (6927730)
12.30 GOING FOR A SONG (4660265)
12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (2717582)
1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (59310)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (44755846)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (7465743)
2.05 FILM: *Kiss Shot* (1989) with Whoopi Goldberg. An unemployed single mother is encouraged by her daughter to return to the professional pool circuit. Directed by Jerry London (8838407)
3.30 PLAYDAYS (3865204) 3.50 *Pingu* (2370223) 3.55 *Bogger* and *Bogger* (9845074) 4.10 *Carrie Boy* (1441020)
4.35 Record Breakers (6961417)
5.00 Newsround (T) (2323551) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (1669198)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (7483339)
6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3871)
6.30 NEWSROOM SOUTH EAST (643)
7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE Michael Aspel surprises another personality with the infamous "Red Book" (T) (72730)
7.30 WATCHDOG: *Feeve Velle Alice* Boer takes a look at fashion and beauty issues, including a report on the labours who make Disney's 101 Dalmatians T-shirts. Plus, allergic reactions to artificial fragrances and the truth about cosmetics added vitamins (T) (8277)
8.00 EASTENDERS: *Tiffiny* comes to a decision (T) (8787)
8.30 THE BRITAINS' EMPIRE Whitley Leisure Centre grinds to a halt. Britains's high-tech computer system goes online. (T) (7285)
9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3907)
9.30 PANORAMA: Crime and Punishment In the second of two programmes on law and order Gavin Hewitt endeavours to discover if tougher conditions and longer prison sentences will bring about a rapid decrease in crime (T) (13223)
10.10 RUBY WAX MEETS In the first of new series Ruby meets the actress Sharon Stone (T) (6835339)
10.40 CLASS WITH IT (692594)
WALES: 11-10 The Stars (694141) 11-10 Film 97 (631594) 11-10 *Film: The Other Side of Love* (259538) 1.10pm News (T) (2323551)
11.30 FILM: *WITH BARRY NORMAN* Hugh Grant talks about *Extreme Measures*. Plus reviews of *That Thing You Do*, *Picture with Disaster* and *The Frighteners* (T) (62117)
12.00 FILM: *The Other Side of Love* (1997) Cheryl Ladd as a divorced mother of three who, wrongly imprisoned on a drug charge, fights to clear her name. Directed by Barbara Rooney (93624)
1.30pm WEATHER (2207073)

BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Great Exhibition (6895739) 6.50 Victorian High Church (4123339) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News 7.30 Help! Is it the Hair, Beach Bum (2441865) 7.55 Blue Peter (2238020)
8.20 *Pingu* (3952204) 8.25 Hairy Jeremy (6255310) 8.35 *Lassie* (3885575) 9.00 *TVB* (13643) 9.30 *Pathways of Belief* (8129117) 9.45 *Technology Starters* (811732) 10.00 *Playdays* (54578) 10.20 *Pakistan and Its People* (5421372) 10.50 *Look and Read* (541136) 11.10 *Zig Zag* (5821845) 11.30 *Ghostwriter* (2052)
12.00 *Testament: The Story in Animation* (33407) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (60349)
1.00 *History* (8005175) 1.20 *German Globe* (6946128) 1.25 *Landmarks* (8006359) 1.45 *Storytime* (4476553) 2.00 *Pingu* (69365136) 2.05 *Hairy Jeremy* (98364407)
2.10 *FILM: Men in War* (1987, b/w) starring Robert Ryan and Aldo Ray. Two antagonistic soldiers are forced to overcome their differences while making their way across enemy territory. Directed by Anthony Mann (452074)
3.35 NEWS (T) 2377138)
4.00 *TODAY'S THE DAY* (558) 4.30 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (440) 5.00 *Esther* (9376)
5.30 *Going, Going, Gone* (420)
6.00 *SPACE: PRECINCT* (T) (577846)
6.45 AS SEEN ON TV (T) (56361)
7.00 *PEOPLE'S CENTURY* Chronicle of the unprecedented political activity which grew out of the 1960s so-called counterculture (T) (9117)
8.00 *LOCAL HEROES* Adam Hart-Davis visits East Anglia, where he recreates a treadmill used for the torture of prisoners and a machine that lets incompetent artists draw like experts (T) (9023)
8.30 *PLAYDAYS* (3865204) 3.50 *Pingu* (2370223) 3.55 *Bogger* and *Bogger* (9845074) 4.10 *Carrie Boy* (1441020)
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Quizmaster Jeremy Paxman (8.30pm)

8.30 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE Exeter College, Oxford, take on Corpus Christi, Cambridge, for a place in the second round. Presented by Jeremy Paxman (T) (5227)
9.00 FILM: *THE LURE* (1993) starring Richard Chamberlain, Linda Kelsey. An 11-year-old boy fights his natural mother for control for the right to live with an adopted family. Directed by Sandy Simon (9488) 10.28 Video Nation Shows (T) (6845429)
10.30 FILM: *NIGHT* (1) (677981)
11.15 THE NET Penelope Woolley and Fenella George follow the work of the Net police. Luc Sante discusses the controversial merits of using the Internet. Plus, the novelist William Gibson reveals his vision of the future for virtual celebrities (31249) 11.55 *Weather* (258440)
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (33421)
12.30pm LEARNING ZONE: O.U. Chemistry 1.00 Elements Organised: the Periodic Table 1.30 Equilibrium Rules 0.75 2.00 Music Makers 4.00 Italia 2000 4.30 Science Master Classes 5.30 RCN Nursing Update

Quizmaster Jeremy Paxman (8.30pm)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm *General* (1982) 5.25 *Star Wars* (2327759) 8.00 *Rocky* (2052) 8.50 *Bonkers* (22847) 9.00 *Windsurfing* (7332781) 9.30 *Football League Review* (9791528) 10.00 *Windurfing* (7332782) 10.30 *Football League Review* (7332783) 11.00 *Star Wars* (2327759)

12.00pm *LEARNING ZONE* (1997) 12.30pm *RCN Nursing Update* (1997)

1.00pm *THE DISNEY CHANNEL*

1.30pm *PLAYDAYS* (3865204) 2.00 *Playtime* (2370223) 2.30 *Boys' Own* (2323551) 2.55 *Star Wars* (2327759) 3.00 *Rocky* (2052) 3.30 *Windurfing* (7332781) 3.50 *Football League Review* (7332782) 4.00 *Windurfing* (7332783) 4.30 *Football League Review* (7332784) 5.00 *Star Wars* (2327759)

5.30pm *LEARNING ZONE* (1997) 6.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (1997)

6.30pm *SKY SPORTS 3*

12.00pm *Rocky* (2052) 12.30pm *Star Wars* (2327759) 12.50pm *RCN Nursing Update* (1997) 1.00pm *Windurfing* (7332781) 1.30pm *Football League Review* (9791528) 1.50pm *Windurfing* (7332782) 1.30pm *Football League Review* (7332783) 2.00pm *Star Wars* (2327759)

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SHOPPING 43
Rise of the new retail emperors

By PAUL DURMAN
AND JASON NISSE

SHAREHOLDERS in Airtours, the holiday company, have been urged to vote to reject the report and accounts at Thursday's annual meeting because of a controversial share scheme that potentially is worth at least £3.7 million to the first four directors to benefit.

Pensions & Investments Research Consultants (Pirc), advisers to about £120 billion of pension funds, is angry that Airtours introduced its new long-term incentive plan in

September without seeking shareholders' approval. Pirc said this was "a serious breach of the Greenbury code" on executive pay.

The four Airtours directors were notionally awarded shares only six days before the Stock Exchange made it a requirement for stock market companies to secure their investors' consent before establishing so-called L-tips. Pirc is unhappy at the impression that Airtours rushed the scheme through to escape the new rules.

Anne Simpson, of Pirc, said: "All this could have been debated at the

AGM." She acknowledged that opposing the adoption of the accounts was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, but said it was the only way to make clear the extent of investor concern.

Institutions have been big buyers of Airtours shares in the past few months. The shares have more than doubled from their 1996 low of 36p. But one large institutional investor said it would vote against the re-election of the non-executive directors because of its concern over the L-tip. A spokesman said: "We are particularly concerned that the non-

executives have allowed themselves to be a party to something which does not appear to fit in with the Greenbury code."

David Burns, Airtours' secretary, said the company was "rather surprised" at the strong line taken by Pirc "simply because the long-term incentive plan was not put to shareholders for a vote". He also pointed out that the directors control 42 per cent of the company's voting rights.

In a report to its clients, Pirc expresses fears about the influence wielded by David Crossland, financial adviser to Airtours. All

three are up for re-election this week and Pirc recommends investors to oppose them all.

Under the L-tip awards, Harry Coe, finance director and deputy chief executive, notionally received 150,000 shares, while Hugh Collinson, Mike Lee and Christopher Sandahl each received 100,000. The £3.7 million estimate is based on Friday's 827p closing share price. To achieve the maximum award of shares, Airtours will have to meet performance targets that are likely to produce a substantial appreciation in its share price.

CHRIS HARRIS

Heseltine and Blair pitch for business vote

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government and Labour will clash directly over British business tomorrow when Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Blair appear on the same platform in a pre-electoral appeal for business votes.

The clash between the two political leaders at the launch of a new and far-reaching study on the future of business in the UK will be the most public argument so far between the parties in their quest for business support.

Mr Heseltine and Mr Blair will argue for their own visions of Britain's industrial and commercial future, setting out in advance of the election the parties' different views of the economy and their relationships with business.

Mr Heseltine has all but forced himself into the programme to launch tomorrow a new analysis of industry in the UK by the Commission on Public Policy and British Business after he became aware that the commission is to support measures that conflict with Conservative policies, including signing the European social chapter, supporting a minimum wage and joining a single currency in Europe. He

is understood to have been irritated by business leaders being seen as supporting key Labour policies in the report from the commission, which was set up by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a left-wing think-tank with close links to Mr Blair.

Though commission members originally wanted Mr Heseltine to speak at the launch of their report in London, they took the view that he would be unlikely to join Mr Blair in doing so. But now, well after the whole launch programme for the report had been arranged, Mr Heseltine has succeeded in being invited to the conference to publish the report.

He will speak immediately after Mr Blair, with only a coffee break separating them. Other speakers include Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors.

Mr Heseltine will sharply criticise its support for a minimum wage and for abandoning the Government's option from the social chapter.

While the commission's support for these policies will

be guarded and conditional, Mr Heseltine is understood to have contacted directly key business leaders on the commission, questioning them about why they backed proposals which he and the Government explicitly regard as damaging to business.

Other commission members, who regard the unanimous approval of all the commission for the report's 40-plus recommendations as its key strength, see Mr Heseltine's contact with commission members as a clear attempt to influence the presentation of its findings.

Business leaders on the commission include George Simpson, managing director of GEC, and Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace. Although the commission has close links to Labour, it has strayed over the 18 months of its inquiry to retain political neutrality under its chairman, George Bain, principal of London Business School.

Mr Blair is expected to broadly endorse the commission findings, regarding its analysis of industrial and competitive performance as largely correct and its proposals significant for future Labour and government policy.

The case highlights the complexities of dispersing funds under the £3.2 billion Lloyd's settlement. Lloyd's has been criticised for delays in making

payments to 12,000 names

owing £50 million under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan. About £400 million has been dispersed so far and rumours of errors and duplications abound.

Mrs Cecil, 52, needed to pay £123,461 to "clear the slate" with Lloyd's and instructed her trustee to make the arrangements.

On November 5 last year, she received a letter from Stafford Run-Off Agency, her members' agent, acknowledging receipt of a cheque for £73,461 — the

second of two instalments she had paid. She was told that her final balance had been cleared.

Two days later Lloyd's sold

Reed International shares

worth £71,202 to cover Mrs

Cecil's "outstanding liabilities".

She subsequently wrote to Ron Sandler, chief executive of Lloyd's, asking that the shares be repurchased and requesting compensation for capital gains liability and any charges incurred. She added: "My view is that the sale took

place because of a breakdown of the system that Lloyd's has set up."

Lloyd's acknowledged that

Mrs Cecil's second cheque had

cleared on November 8 and

conceded that the timing of the

share sale was "unfortunate".

It said, however, that its action was justified because it had not been aware that the new money was on the way.

She faces a potential capital gains tax liability of £22,000. Stafford Run-Off would not comment on the case.

Mirabel Cecil, with husband Hugh and daughter Stella, was horrified to find her shares had been sold by Lloyd's

Name may sue over shares sale

By JON ASHWORTH

A LLOYD'S of London name is considering legal action against Lloyd's after shares held as security against her debts were mistakenly sold, leaving her facing a potential £22,000 tax bill. Mirabel Cecil had already paid more than £123,000 to settle her debts with Lloyd's and was horrified when the error came to light.

The case highlights the complexities of dispersing funds under the £3.2 billion Lloyd's settlement. Lloyd's has been criticised for delays in making

payments to 12,000 names owing £50 million under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan. About £400 million has been dispersed so far and rumours of errors and duplications abound.

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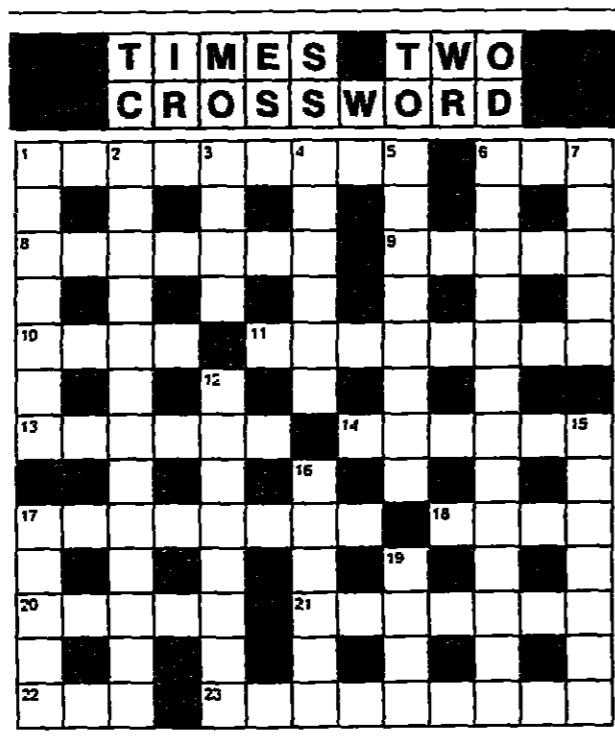
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PILOTS' pact, page 45



Horlick's hard line may have cost her up to £1.2m

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROL MIDGLEY

AS Nicola Horlick, the Morgan Grenfell fund manager who quit her £1 million-a-year post on Thursday, called for her reinstatement, the bank said that she had forfeited a bonus that may have been worth as much as £500,000. Mrs Horlick, who sought to escape the spotlight yesterday by taking her children to visit her brother Christopher, insisted she did not resign from Morgan Grenfell after her suspension last Tuesday.

She said she had been "constructively dismissed" after being suspended over allegations that she tried to poach members of her 30-strong team at Morgan Grenfell to join her at ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. She has consistently denied the allegation.

She added: "The only job I ever wanted was to be managing director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. My entire loyalty is to that firm. It

ed to conclude its internal investigation by the personnel department into the allegations against Mrs Horlick. A bank spokesman said that no further action would be taken until it received word from Herbert Smith, the law firm acting for the former fund manager.

Both sides in the Horlick affair will attempt to take some of the heat out of the situation after Friday's whirlwind visits by Mrs Horlick to Morgan Grenfell's London offices and the Frankfurt headquarters of Deutsche Bank. Mrs Horlick met with members of the bank's legal and personnel departments, none of whom was a director.

Any meetings between the legal advisers to both sides are likely to take place behind closed doors and away from the not-hotel atmosphere that has developed since Mrs Horlick's sudden suspension nearly a week ago.

Morgan Grenfell is expect-

over the past year. A spokesman said: "Bonuses have yet to be finalised for all the bank's staff, but they will be paid at the end of February."

He continued: "Anyone who has left the bank before the bonuses are finalised, for whatever reason, forfeits their right to that bonus payment. This is standard City practice."

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ed to conclude its internal investigation by the personnel department into the allegations against Mrs Horlick. A bank spokesman said that no further action would be taken until it received word from Herbert Smith, the law firm acting for the former fund manager.

Dan Colson, deputy chairman of Hollinger and chief executive of the Telegraph group, would not reveal which groups were most attractive to Hollinger, but it is known that it has been following developments at Midland Independent Newspapers.

Hollinger made a £105 million offer for Midland, pub-

lisher of *The Birmingham Post*, *Evening Mail* and *Country Evening Telegraph*, in 1991 but was beaten by a management group, which paid £125 million. Midland floated at 140p in 1994 and has rarely seen its shares rise above that price. They closed Friday at 148p up 1p.

Chris Oakley, Midland

chief executive, said there had

been no bid approach. But he admitted the weak share price made the group "vulnerable" to a takeover.

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lisher of *The Birmingham Post*, *Evening Mail* and *Country Evening Telegraph*, in 1991 but was beaten by a management group, which paid £125 million. Midland floated at 140p in 1994 and has rarely seen its shares rise above that price. They closed Friday at 148p up 1p.

Chris Oakley, Midland

chief executive, said there had

been no bid approach. But he admitted the weak share price made the group "vulnerable" to a takeover.

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